

IPCC PUBLICLY APOLOGISES TO SIX COMPLAINANTS

The Independent Police Complaints Commission has today issued an apology to six complainants, who complained in 2002 about an investigation by Hampshire Police.

The complaints were against the investigation by Hampshire Police of allegations of unlawful killing against Gosport War Memorial Hospital. The case was inherited by the IPCC from the Police Complaints Authority when it was set up on 1 April 2004.

IPCC deputy chair John Wadham said: "The usual high standards that the Commission has set itself have not been applied in this case and I wish to publicly apologise to the complainants for that.

"There have been a number of problems with the way that this case has been handled, not least the unacceptable length of time it has taken.

"I have also today offered to meet with all the complainants with IPCC Commissioner Rebecca Marsh, who has recently been given responsibility for this case.

"We will assure the complainants that the IPCC will now move quickly to deal with their complaints.

"Rebecca Marsh will also be reviewing the handling of this case."