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The News, Friday, August 2, 2002 **25****HEALTH:** Deputy chief constable scrutinises complaints against officers over the handling of a probe into deaths at hospital

Police consider deaths file

THE file detailing complaints against the police over their handling of an investigation into deaths at a Gosport hospital has been handed to the deputy chief constable.

Ian Redhead will consider the evidence before deciding in the next few weeks whether action should be taken against any officers.

Seven complaints were

by Richard Whitehouse
The News

lodged against Hampshire Constabulary by people whose relatives died at Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

All the people who complained to the police say their relatives were given excessive doses of sedative drugs and were not cared for properly.

They all asked police to investigate their claims but were told there was not enough evidence to do any-

Woman concerned about level of mother's drugs

THE investigation into Gosport War Memorial Hospital started after the death of Gladys Richards who was a patient in 1998.

Her daughter, Gillian Mackenzie, called for hospital bosses to launch a probe into the care of elderly patients at the hospital after claiming her

mother died unnecessarily. She was concerned with the level of sedatives and painkilling drugs given to her mother.

thing. They later lodged complaints against that decision.

A report released earlier this month into the hospital by the Commission for Health Improvement (CHI) found that

poor guidelines led to patients being given excessive doses of drugs. But the report could not say whether any patients had died as a result.

Chief Superintendent Dan

Clacher, who has led the investigation into the formal complaints, said: 'The file on the complaints has now been given to the deputy chief constable and he will decide what

happens next. It is a fairly complex issue and is not something that could be resolved quickly.'

Police could open the original cases if they believe they should be looked at again.

Marjorie Bulbeck, whose mother Dulcie Middleton died after being treated at Gosport War Memorial, is one of those waiting for the result.

She said: 'We have all been interviewed again and we are now all waiting the outcome of that.'

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