

## Inquest into hospital deaths

THE Portsmouth coroner has opened and adjourned an inquest into the deaths of 10 patients at Gosport War Memorial Hospital in the late 1990s.

Police investigated the deaths, but no charges were brought. At one stage 92 deaths were reviewed.

Eventually case files on 10 people who died between 1996 and 1999 were sent to the Crown Prosecution Service but in December 2006 lawyers there decided there was insufficient evidence to take anyone to court.

The inquests will be into the deaths

of Leslie Pittock, Elsie Lavender, Ruby Lake, Robert Wilson, Enid Spurgeon, Elsie Devine, Helena Service, Arthur Cunningham, Sheila Gregory, and Geoffrey Packman.

Complaints from relatives centred on the use of sedatives.

Richard Samuel from Hampshire Primary Care Trust said: 'Hampshire PCT and Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust would like to reassure people that they can be assured of the highest quality care at Gosport War Memorial Hospital.'

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