

Inquest into hospital death is put back

AN INQUEST into the death of a mother at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital 13 years ago has been put back to next spring.

The two-week hearing into the death of Gladys Richards had been due to start on October 25. Mrs Richards died at the Bury Road hospital in August 1998 while under the care of Dr Jane Barton.

John White, a solicitor at Blake Laphorn who will be representing Gillian Mackenzie - Mrs Richards' daughter - said: 'It's definitely been moved back to probably March or even April next year.'

'It seems it's to do with the coroner's availability rather than something deeper to do with the case. There's no sinister reason for the delay. It is disappointing as we want to get on with it. It's been a long time getting here, but we will be ready and waiting.'

Mrs Mackenzie said she



INQUEST Gladys Richards

is 'perfectly happy' with the situation.

She approached police with concerns over her mother's care after she died. It was this case that initiated the original investigation by Hampshire Constabulary into the deaths at the Gosport hospital.

Inquests into the deaths of five other patients at the hospital took place in 2009 when a jury ruled drugs prescribed by Dr Barton contributed to the deaths.