

*The News - 10 July 14*

## Inquiry launched into 100 deaths at hospital

AN INQUIRY similar to the one launched to investigate the Hillsborough tragedy will be set up to look into the deaths of 100 patients at Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

A report in the *Independent* says the inquiry will be led by the Right Rev James Jones, the former Bishop of Liverpool, and will look into deaths as far back as 1991.

The newspaper reports health minister Norman Lamb has asked the bishop to establish a wide-ranging inquiry following a 'deaths audit' of the hospital.

Dozens of patients are said to have been given 'life-shortening' painkillers.

A report into the practise, chaired by Professor Richard Baker, found morphine and other powerful drugs were routinely prescribed to elderly patients in Gosport between 1988 and 2000, even if they were not in pain.

Last year, the report was finally published after the final inquest was heard.

Family members of those



**DEATHS** Gosport War Memorial Hospital

who died campaigned for years, alongside Gosport MP Caroline Dinenage, for the report to be made public.

The inquest of Gladys Richards, which took place in July 2013, was the final inquest relating to deaths during the 1990s.

Ms Dinenage welcomed the report at the time.

Concerns were first raised about the use of opiates among elderly patients at Gosport by nurses in 1991, but the practice continued for another decade, despite complaints from families, three police investigations, 11 inquests and a professional misconduct hearing.