

# Clifford Houghton

**No. BJC/28**

**Date of Birth:**

**Code A**

**Date of Death: 6 February 1994**

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Prior to his last admission to Gosport War Memorial Hospital Mr Houghton lived with his wife in a bungalow.

Mr Houghton had suffered a right hemiparesis in 1991 which impaired his mobility and power of speech.

In October 1993, since Mrs Houghton was finding it increasingly difficult to cope, Mr Houghton was admitted for two weeks care at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital at six weekly intervals.

Because of suspected transient ischaemic attacks, Mr Houghton was admitted on 31 January 1994 prior to the completion of the six week period at home.

On 3 February 1994 Mr Houghton's condition was described as deteriorating, he was breathless and distressed. He was written up for a syringe driver which was commenced on 6 February 1994. The initial dose of Diamorphine was 40mgs over twenty-four hours which was increased to 60mgs following a review by Dr Peters.

Mr Houghton died that evening.

The experts, in reviewing this case, note that the dose of Diamorphine which was started was high but Mr Houghton was clearly in the terminal phase of his life already.

The experts felt that the high starting dose was negligent but needed to be viewed in the context of a man who was dying in any event.