

Gosport Independent Panel

25 January 2017

Statement from Bishop James Jones KBE, Chair of the Gosport Independent Panel

“We are over half way through the work of the Panel and are now in contact with more families with concerns about the historic care and treatment of their loved ones at Gosport War Memorial Hospital. I am grateful to the local media for raising awareness of the Panel’s work; which has helped the Panel reach families who have concerns.

As announced in December, this led to the need for a small extension of less than six months from the end of December 2017 until the spring of 2018 to complete the Panel’s work.

It is vitally important that all families who have come forward are treated equally and their concerns are properly examined by the Panel before we report”.

Background

The establishment of the Gosport Independent Panel was announced on 10 July 2014 by Norman Lamb, former Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department of Health. The Panel is chaired by Bishop James Jones, set up to review documentary evidence held across a range of organisations concerning the initial care of families' relatives and subsequent investigations into Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

In December 2014, the Government announced the Panel's Terms of Reference and the Panel membership.

Philip Dunne, the Minister of State, Department of Health announced in November 2016 that because of the greater number of families in contact with the Panel and the substantial increase in the volume of material the Panel is reviewing, the Panel expects to complete its work in spring 2018.

The Terms of Reference for the investigation and Panel membership are available on the Panel's website at: <https://gosportpanel.independent.gov.uk/terms-of-reference/>

In summary, the remit of the Panel is to:

- Consult with the families of the deceased and of those treated to ensure that the views of those affected are taken into consideration;
- Obtain, examine and analyse documentation from all relevant organisations and individuals (governmental and non-governmental);
- Produce a report which will provide an overview of the information reviewed by the Panel and will illustrate how the information disclosed adds to public understanding of these events and their aftermath.

Note

Bishop James Jones will not be offering any media interviews at this time or making any additional comments.