

Gosport Independent Panel

Press release – Thursday 30 July 2015

Invitation to contact the Gosport Independent Panel

Bishop James Jones, the Chair of the Gosport Independent Panel invites anyone who wishes to raise concerns about the treatment of patients at Gosport War Memorial Hospital from the 1980s through to the early 2000s to contact the Panel.

Today marks the start of a campaign to invite anyone who may have concerns to contact the Panel in confidence. A series of adverts will appear in the regional press and posters will be displayed in libraries and other organisations.

The Gosport Independent Panel was set up last year to address historic concerns raised by families over a number of years about the initial care of their relatives in Gosport War Memorial Hospital and the subsequent investigations into their deaths. The Panel are reviewing documentary evidence held by a range of organisations and individuals.

A significant number of families have come forward since the original announcement, particularly since the announcement of the Panel Members and Terms of Reference in December. It is important that anyone who wishes to raise concerns has an opportunity to do so:

“As Chair of the Panel, I would like to invite anyone who wishes to raise any historic concerns about the treatment of patients at Gosport War Memorial Hospital to contact the Panel. Many families have concerns about the way their relatives were treated and how their complaints have been handled. I want to make sure families’ views are taken into account and fully considered by the Panel.

If you would like to contact the Panel you can do so in confidence by completing the contact form at <https://gosportpanel.independent.gov.uk/contact/> or by emailing enquiries@gosportpanel.independent.gov.uk or by calling 0207 972 4212 during normal office hours.

I would like to thank you in advance for your assistance”.

Bishop James Jones
Chair Gosport Independent Panel

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Background

- The establishment of the Gosport Independent Panel, chaired by Bishop James Jones, was announced on 10 July 2014 by the then Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department of Health (Norman Lamb).
- The Terms of Reference for the investigation and Panel membership were announced on 9 December 2014 and 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.
- Profiles of the Chair and appointed members of the Panel are available on the Panel’s website at <https://gosportpanel.independent.gov.uk/the-panel/>
- A series of adverts will be placed in the Portsmouth News, the Southern Daily Echo, Bournemouth Daily Echo and the New Forest Post.

The Chair of the Gosport Independent Panel, Bishop James Jones, is available for embargoed interviews on Tuesday 28 July in Portsmouth. To arrange an interview with Bishop James Jones, please telephone Judy Joslin (07500 226708) or Melanie Peffer (07775 541494).