

PRESS NOTICE - 9th December 2014

Investigation into Gosport War Memorial Hospital begins

Today Care Minister Norman Lamb has officially launched the independent investigation into concerns raised about the care and subsequent deaths of older people at Gosport War Memorial Hospital from the 1980s through to the early 2000s.

The Terms of Reference for the investigation and some of the panel members who will lead the Gosport Independent Panel have been confirmed and published in Parliament today.

The Terms of Reference are available on Gosport Independent Panel's website – <https://gosportpanel.independent.gov.uk>

In July, it was announced that Bishop James Jones, who previously chaired the Hillsborough Independent Panel would chair the independent investigation and today Norman Lamb has confirmed four additional members will join the Panel:

Geriatric medicine specialist Dr Colin Currie, investigative journalist David Hencke and former Scotland Yard Commander Duncan Jarrett will join the Panel immediately, whilst pathology and medical records expert Dr Bill Kirkup will join after his work with the Morecombe Bay investigation concludes.

After consulting with the affected families, Bishop Jones has worked hard to ensure their views have been reflected in the terms of reference.

The Panel are calling on anyone wishes to raise any concerns about their treatment, or their relatives, at Gosport during this period, they should contact the Panel – <https://gosportpanel.independent.gov.uk> or enquiries@gosportpanel.independent.gov.uk

The Government has committed to maximum public disclosure of documentation relating to the events at Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

Bishop James Jones, Chair of the Gosport Independent Panel said:

"Many families have on-going concerns about the way their relatives were treated and how their complaints have been handled. I want to help provide clarity and understanding for the families. By working with them to set and deliver the terms of reference with a panel of experts from different fields, I believe I can achieve this. Independence and integrity will be the hallmarks of the Panel's work"

Care Minister, Norman Lamb said:

"The events at Gosport War Memorial hospital have caused immense distress to the families of the patients who died. I have confidence that this independent panel will help answer the many questions they have."

For media bids for Bishop James Jones – please contact Marc Masey on 07917790887

For media bids for Care Minister, Norman Lamb – please contact the Department of Health press office on 020 7210 5703.