

# SOUTHERN Daily Echo

Fareham  
& Gosport  
EDITION

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35p [www.thisishampshire.net](http://www.thisishampshire.net)

**Saints get  
go-ahead to  
boost capacity**

- see SPORT

**Could Wayne  
Bridge be  
on his way?**

- see SPORT back page





RESULTS DUE ON EIGHT-MONTH HOSPITAL PROBE

# FAMILIES WANT AN ANSWER



**'I WILL NOT STOP FIGHTING':** Ann Reeves.



**A FAMILY'S GRIEF:** Elsie Devine, who died at Gosport War Memorial hospital in 1999.

Report by Sian Davies

**ANXIOUS families will today hear the findings of an eight-month probe by a health watchdog into the care of elderly patients at Gosport War Memorial hospital.**

The inquiry by the Commission for Health Improvement was sparked following a police probe into allegations made by relatives of patients who had died while at the hospital.

Investigators spent months gathering information, interviewing staff and concerned families after launching the inquiry last October.

Health chiefs will face families of at least ten patients who died while at the hospital at a press conference today when the findings of the probe will be revealed.

Among those at the meeting in Gosport will be Ann Reeves, whose 88-year-old mother Elsie Devine died while recovering from a kidney infection at the hospital in October 1999. She said: "We just want some answers. I will not stop fighting until I find out exactly what happened to my mother."

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# Findings due on hospital inquiry

## ● From front page

Mrs Reeves has already insisted on an internal review being carried out by hospital staff into why her mother was given large amounts of sedatives with morphine.

She said: "Obviously we want something to come from this report but some of us have also written to the GMB and the nursing council because we want all of what happened to come out."

The CHI investigation centred on a number of issues including the administration of drugs at the hospital around 1998, the time when Gladys Richards was a patient.

Her daughter Gillian MacKenzie was the first to take her

complaints over the treatment her 91-year-old mother received while at the hospital to the police after raising her concerns with the local health authority. Mrs Richards died in August of that year after being admitted to the hospital for rehabilitation after a hip operation.

A spokesman for the police force said no comment could be made until details of the report were released but confirmed a police inquiry was still open and that the publication of the CHI report would be welcome.

The publication of the investigation has also been welcomed by the hospital, which has recently come under the auspices of Fareham and Gosport Primary Care Trust.

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