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## Calls for public enquiry over woman's death

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**AN EASTBOURNE woman whose mother's death is at the centre of a controversial case is backing calls for a public inquiry into the doctor involved in it.**

Gillian Mackenzie's mother Gladys Richardson died in Gosport War Memorial Hospital in 1998 while under the care of Dr Jane Barton, who was recently found guilty of serious professional misconduct while patients were under her care at a hearing of the General Medical Council. (GMC). The doctor was not struck off.

Mrs Mackenzie is now backing the Liberal Democrat shadow Secretary of State for Health Norman Lamb MP who has recently tabled an Early Day Motion in Parliament seeking to establish an independent public inquiry.

She said, "I attended the GMC Panel up in London and heard all the evidence against Dr Barton. She was supposed to be looking after my mother at the Gosport Hospital in 1998 and they found against her in the over-prescription of diamorphine and other powerful drugs.

"The GMC concluded that Dr Barton 'showed a worrying lack of insight' but still they did not take the necessary step, in my view, of striking Dr Barton off the register. We must have a public enquiry so that the victims relatives can get to the bottom of this whole dreadful episode."

Eastbourne's Liberal Democrat parliamentary candidate Stephen Lloyd, who has been actively supporting Mrs. Mackenzie's fight for justice, said, "Only a public examination with equivalent powers to the Shipman inquiry could satisfactorily consider the complex nature of the multiple deaths and satisfy the public interest in learning lessons about safety in such cases.

"The relatives of many of the 92 deceased patients are supporting a call for a public enquiry and I will continue to bring as much pressure to bear as I can."