

Dr Barton has 28 days to appeal any of the findings or sanctions against her. After that, the CHRE has 40 days to appeal the Panel's decision at the High Court, if it believes the sanctions are too lenient.

The CHRE has already requested the GMC transcripts and told the IoS that it would work as fast as possible to review these and lodge an appeal if appropriate.

In an unprecedented step, the chief executive of the GMC, Niall Dickson, issued a statement within minutes, expressing his "surprise" at the failure to strike Dr Barton off the medical register.

The disparity between the GMC and one of its panels has prompted fresh questions about the "arcane rules and structures" of the regulator charged with protecting the public and maintaining the reputation of the professions.

Barney Page, whose mother Eva Page, 87, died in 1998, said: "I'm totally shocked really. The number and type of restrictions are impractical and not fair. She has shown no remorse, this decision is absolutely amazing. We were never given an opportunity to gather testimonials from relatives or patients who suffered because of Dr Barton. She should have been struck off."

Hampshire Police have never taken a statement from Mr Page despite the seriousness of his mother's death.

The newly appointed NMC chief executive and registrar said: "Dickon Weir-Hughes, NMC Chief Executive and Registrar, which you can use:-

"The Gosport War Memorial Hospital case is one of the most complex cases that the NMC has handled because it involved lengthy investigations by the coroner, the police and significantly the outcome of the GMC hearing concerning Dr Jane Barton. Now that these investigations are complete, we are able to proceed with our own investigations as we've always intended to do."

John Pittard, close friend of Nat Gonella, the famous jazz trumpeter who died

Many of the sanctions require Dr Barton to inform the GMC and her employer about what she does and where she goes. The tenth sanction forbids her from undertaking palliative or end-of-life care, something which she did far too readily

and sometimes unnecessarily for the patients investigated at the GMC hearing. How practical is this for a GP? What happens when a patient is diagnosed with cancer? They may get better or they may not. When would Dr Barton hand over responsibility for that patient to another doctor?

She is also forbidden to prescribe opiates, powerful painkillers such as morphine, by injection. She must keep a log of any oral prescription and provide these to the GMC every six months. But several doctors have pointed out to the IoS that there are many other drugs which if wrongly prescribed can increase the risk of death in patients too.