| 1 | Wednesday, 25 September 2024 | 1 | the (|
|----------|--|----------|-------|
| 2 | (10.02 am) | 2 | stor |
| 3 | LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: Good morning. | 3 | l did |
| 4 | MR SCORER: Good morning, my Lady. | 4 | |
| 5 | LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: I understand we have | 5 | 12 w |
| 6 | Father O&P&R online? | 6 | l wa |
| 7 | MR SCORER: That's right, my Lady. | 7 | quite |
| 8 | LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: I understand you are going | 8 | very |
| 9 | to read both statements, starting with Mother O&P&R? | 9 | toge |
| 10 | MR SCORER: That's correct. | 10 | |
| 11 | LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: Thank you very much. When | 11 | refe |
| 12 | you're ready. | 12 | a se |
| 13 | MOTHER O&P&R statement read | 13 | care |
| 14 | MR SCORER: This is the witness statement of the | 14 | coul |
| 15 | Mother of Children O&P&R. | 15 | were |
| 16 | "I, Mother O&P&R will say as follows: | 16 | |
| 17 | "I make this statement in response to the Inquiry's | 17 | con |
| 18 | Rule 9 request. This statement should be read in | 18 | |
| 19 | conjunction with my police and Victim Impact statements. | 19 | of th |
| 20 | "Experience at the Countess of Chester Hospital. | 20 | and |
| 21 | "My first child was born at the Countess of Chester | 21 | l wa |
| 22 | Hospital. This was a normal pregnancy, there were no | 22 | hear |
| 23 | complications, and the care was good. | 23 | of su |
| 24 | "Initially I did not realise that I was pregnant | 24 | be. |
| 25 | with triplets. When I went to a booking appointment at 1 | 25 | |
| | | | |
| 1 | every two weeks initially, but this increased to weekly | 1 | told |
| 2 | as the pregnancy progressed. | 2 | Che |
| 3 | "At around 23 weeks I was given steroids so that if | 3 | nurs |
| 4 | the babies arrived early their lungs would develop more | 4 | |
| 5 | quickly. We desperately wanted the babies to get as | 5 | a dif |
| 6 | close to 34 weeks as possible. Every scan was fine, and | 6 | Ahe |
| 7 | we were told that the babies were growing well. | 7 | we v |
| 8 | "We decided to find out the sex of the babies and | 8 | Cou |
| 9 | we also named them early on. | 9 | put o |
| 10 | "At around 30 weeks I had some tightening. I was | 10 | arou |
| 11 | very large and I went into the the Countess of Chester | 11 | prob |
| 12 | Hospital as a precaution. They did a swab and said that | 12 | we h |
| 13 | everything was fine, and that they did not expect the | 13 | noth |
| 14 15 | babies to arrive early. | 14 15 | that |
| | "I did not actually expect our babies to be born at | | that |
| 16 | the Countess of Chester Hospital, I was explicitly told | 16 | Neo |
| 17 | throughout my pregnancy that they would be born there | 17 | that |
| 18 10 | only if there was a nurse and a bed for each baby. | 18 10 | born |
| 19 20 | I was told that for this reason, it was very unlikely | 19 | 1.4 |
| 20 | that I would actually have them at the Counters of | 20 | l sta |
| 21 | Chester Hospital. I was warned by Consultants that it | 21 | l cal |
| 22 | was likely that we would have to travel to another | 22 | knov |
| 23 | hospital. We were told that this could be Birmingham or London but we had to be ready to go anywhere. | 23 | in a |
| 24 25 | | 24 25 | thou |
| 20 | "It was only when I went into labour that I was 3 | 20 | they |

Countess of Chester Hospital I thought that my mach was bigger than in my previous pregnancy but dn't think anything of it. "My first ultrasound scan took place at about weeks gestation. It was then that we were told that as having triplets. Father O&P&R and I were both te worried about how we would cope but our family was y supportive and we knew we would get through it ether. "The Consultant at the Countess of Chester Hospital erred me to the Liverpool Women's Hospital for econd scan. However, he told us that he was happy to e for me at the Countess of Chester Hospital and they Ild refer back to Liverpool Women's Hospital if there re any problems along the way. "The Countess of Chester Hospital was more venient for us so I was happy with this plan. "At Liverpool Women's Hospital I was told that one he triplets was a little smaller than the other two. d as all three triplets were sharing one placenta, as given the option of having the smaller triplet's artbeat stopped to give the two others a better chance survival. We decided against this and to let things "At the Countess of Chester Hospital I had scans 2 I was going to be giving birth at the Countess of ester Hospital. I was told that there were enough ses and beds to deliver the babies there. "Going into hospital to have the triplets was ifferent experience from having my first child. ead of giving birth, I was told by Jim McCormack that would be able to look around the Neonatal Unit at the untess of Chester Hospital. In the event, this was off and I was not given the opportunity to look ound and see the Unit. We were told that the bability of us being there would be low. That said, had not experienced a Neonatal Unit before so we had hing to compare it with anyway. "I was given to understand throughout my pregnancy t on delivery the babies would need to go to the onatal Unit as a precaution due to the risk factors t come with a triplet pregnancy and them having to be n at 34 weeks. "On an evening in June 2016, I was at home. arted to get contractions at around 2300 hours. alled the Countess of Chester Hospital to let them ow and they told me to come in straight away. I was

in a lot of pain.
"When I arrived, the contractions were strong but
they said that my cervix was not dilating so they didn't

(1) Pages 1 - 4

| 1 | consider me to be in active labour. A nurse from the | 1 | the |
|----------|---|----------|-------|
| 2 | Fetal medicine unit popped in to see me and expressed | 2 | it w |
| 3 | surprise that I hadn't been moved towards a caesarean | 3 | l fel |
| 4 | section, given my state. | 4 | оре |
| 5 | "The next day, they reviewed me and decided to do | 5 | poir |
| 6 | the section. | 6 | |
| 7 | "I had diamorphine injected into my leg. I cannot | 7 | bloo |
| 8 | remember how long it was before this wore off. | 8 | onte |
| 9 | "On a date in June at approximately 1.30/1.45 pm, | 9 | l wa |
| 10 | I was sent to theatre. Despite being 33 weeks pregnant | 10 | |
| 11 | with triplets, I had to walk from the observation room | 11 | told |
| 12 | on the Labour Ward to the theatre. This was a few rooms | 12 | l wo |
| 13 | down from the Neonatal Unit. | 13 | and |
| 14 | "I was told to climb onto the bed and sit on the | 14 | 'l do |
| 15 | edge ready to be given a spinal block. | 15 | he |
| 16 | "Father O&P&R was not in the theatre with me at | 16 | |
| 17 10 | this point. He was getting his gown on. | 17 | cryi |
| 18 10 | "My hope and expectation was that Jim McCormack was | 18 | for |
| 19 20 | going to deliver the babies as he had scanned me every | 19 | nee |
| 20 21 | week and reassured me that everything was going really | 20 21 | unu |
| 21 22 | well. Unfortunately, he had booked annual leave. It was very disappointing for me that he wasn't there. | 21 | l wa |
| 22 23 | I don't know the doctor that did the C-section. | 22 | I We |
| 23 24 | "After receiving the spinal block, my legs started | 23 | suit |
| 24 25 | to go numb and I was told to 'quickly' put my legs on | 24 | boy |
| 20 | 5 5 | 20 | 509 |
| 1 | hour before coming back to the recovery suite to check | 1 | ma |
| 2 | on me. | 2 | not |
| 3 | "Whilst in recovery, I was shown some photos of the | 3 | |
| 4 | boys so I could see them as I wasn't allowed down to the | 4 | our |
| 5 | Neonatal Unit until 1900 hours. | 5 | luno |
| 6 | "At 1900 I went from the Maternity Ward to the | 6 | day |
| 7 | Neonatal Unit. | 7 | |
| 8 | "When I arrived on the Unit, Father O&P&R had to go | 8 | Uni |
| 9 | home. I remember being with the boys on my own. | 9 | had |
| 10 | "I had a catheter in from the surgery. I remember | 10 | Luc |
| 11 | needing to go to the toilet. In the room there were six | 11 | sho |
| 12 | bays and one bathroom. I was at the end of the ward and | 12 | lucł |
| 13 | had to walk to the other side where the toilet was. | 13 | |
| 14 | "I could not physically get out of bed and walk | 14 | pict |
| 15 | because my stomach was burning. The pain was so bad. | 15 | |
| 16 | I called for someone to help but they took a while to | 16 | to b |
| 17 | come. | 17 | rou |
| 18 | "The stitches used for my C-section scar were not | 18 | bac |
| 19 | dissolvable. I was told that I needed to air the scar | 19 | no |
| | out. I went for a shower. | 20 | |
| | | 04 | pre |
| 21 | "I had never experienced a C-section before. Later | 21 | |
| 21 22 | on, having experienced a second one, I can compare the | 22 | date |
| 23 | on, having experienced a second one, I can compare the two. The C-section at the Countess of Chester Hospital | 22 23 | date |
| 21 22 | on, having experienced a second one, I can compare the | 22 | |

| 1 | the table. My stomach was big as I was having triplets; |
|--|---|
| 2 | it was not easy for me and throughout the delivery |
| 3 | I felt very rushed. I was laying on the table and being |
| 4 | operated on when I felt pain; I was opened up at this |
| 5 | point. I was given further medication. |
| 6 | "When they started the surgery and I was opened up, |
| 7 | blood and fluid splattered up and over the screen and |
| 3 | onto the wall behind me. This also went onto my face. |
| 9 | I was told this was due to the pressure in my stomach. |
| 0 | "I had never experienced a C-section before. I was |
| 1 | told I would feel some pressure and pulling but that |
| 2 | I would not feel any pain. At one point I was in pain |
| 3 | and I said 'That's hurting'. The anaesthetist said |
| 4 | 'I don't think that is hurting, it's pulling' and then |
| 5 | he gave me more medicine. |
| 6 | "When the boys were delivered,, I could hear them |
| 7 | crying. One of the nurses brought Child R over to me |
| 8 | for a few minutes. I was told that Child P and Child O |
| 9 | needed a little bit of oxygen but that this was not |
| 0 | unusual for babies born that early. |
| 1 | "The boys were then taken to the Neonatal Unit, and |
| 2 | I was taken to recovery. |
| 3 | "After being sewn up, I was taken to the recovery |
| 4 | suite opposite the theatre. Father O&P&R followed the |
| 5 | boys to the Neonatal Unit and was there for around an |
| | 6 |
| | |
| 1 | made to feel that I was putting them out, as if they did |
| 2 | not want to help. |
| 3 | "Father O&P&R came back to the hospital and brought |
| 4 | our first child. I think this was in the morning before |
| 5 | lunch. I saw the boys on the Neonatal Unit twice this |
| 6 | day and I was there for around an hour each time. |
| 7 | "The boys were in separate rooms on the Neonatal |
| 3 | Unit. I was reassured that everything was fine, they |
| 9 | had no concerns. I cannot recall the precise date but |
| 0 | Lucy Letby was looking after two of the babies. She |
| 1 | showed Father O&P&R how to feed them. She told us how |
| 2 | lucky we were and that their weights were great. |
| - | , |
| 3 | "Father O&P&R changed Child P's nappy and took |
| 4 | "Father O&P&R changed Child P's nappy and took pictures. |
| 4 5 | "Father O&P&R changed Child P's nappy and took pictures. "Father O&P&R and I were told that they were going |
| 4 5 6 | "Father O&P&R changed Child P's nappy and took pictures. "Father O&P&R and I were told that they were going to brain scan all three boys. Doctor V said this was |
| 4 5 6 7 | "Father O&P&R changed Child P's nappy and took pictures. "Father O&P&R and I were told that they were going to brain scan all three boys. Doctor V said this was routine for all babies. After the scan results came |
| 4 5 6 7 8 | "Father O&P&R changed Child P's nappy and took pictures. "Father O&P&R and I were told that they were going to brain scan all three boys. Doctor V said this was routine for all babies. After the scan results came back, we were told everything looked fine and they had |
| 4 5 6 7 8 9 | "Father O&P&R changed Child P's nappy and took pictures. "Father O&P&R and I were told that they were going to brain scan all three boys. Doctor V said this was routine for all babies. After the scan results came back, we were told everything looked fine and they had no concerns. |
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| 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 | "Father O&P&R changed Child P's nappy and took pictures. "Father O&P&R and I were told that they were going to brain scan all three boys. Doctor V said this was routine for all babies. After the scan results came back, we were told everything looked fine and they had no concerns. "I wanted to express milk and Lucy Letby, who was present on the day shift (I cannot recall the precise date), showed me how to do this and gave me a leaflet. "On a night in June, my mum came to visit during |
| 4 5 7 8 9 0 1 | "Father O&P&R changed Child P's nappy and took pictures. "Father O&P&R and I were told that they were going to brain scan all three boys. Doctor V said this was routine for all babies. After the scan results came back, we were told everything looked fine and they had no concerns. "I wanted to express milk and Lucy Letby, who was present on the day shift (I cannot recall the precise date), showed me how to do this and gave me a leaflet. |

8

them.

the afternoon.

"I was never given a specific timeframe as to how long they would be in the Neonatal Unit. We assumed that this would be dependent on their progress.

"I was not expecting the babies to need any special treatment as we were told when they were born that they were healthy -- there was nothing medically wrong with

"Before birth, Father O&P&R and I were expecting the babies to be 3lbs each at most. In fact they were considerably bigger than we expected, reinforcing our

"On a date in June, Father O&P&R's dad was coming

"Around ten minutes after Father O&P&R had left the Maternity Ward to go to the Neonatal Unit,, Father O&P&R and Doctor U (who was the main Consultant) arrived at my bed side. This alarmed me straight away because I didn't why they were there. This was around 3 pm in

"Doctor U assured me that there was nothing to

the exact amount of IVs, just that he was given a lot of different medications. Lucy Letby was on the ward at this time; she was passing medicine to the doctors. It looked like they didn't really know what they were doing and were just trying anything they could think of.

"I called my mum and asked her to come straight

Dr Brearey was called onto the Unit. At this point, I was in a wheelchair in the corridor of the Unit. He told me that Child O had been starved of oxygen. My mum was present during this conversation. He told me that

it might be better if Child O didn't pull through because the damage caused to his brain would be

Everyone was in shock and disbelief.

"Child O passed away at 5.47 pm. I was there when he died. He was passed over to me so I could hold him. "As this was happening, and before Child O died,

away. She arrived quite quickly.

life-changing.

on them.

worry about, but that Child O needed some extra breathing support so they had administered a breathing tube. He told me this was not uncommon for babies in 10

to visit. You were only allowed to have one visitor with one parent, so Father O&P&R was going with his dad to see the boys and I stayed on the Maternity Ward.

belief that they were in good health.

| 1 | another. Father O&P&R asked the nurses if there was an | 1 |
|----------|--|----------|
| 2 | issue with one of the babies and asked why they were | 2 |
| 3 | separated. He was told this was because of a lack of | 3 |
| 4 | space, so I was not concerned. | 4 |
| 5 | "We were told that Child P and Child O needed | 5 |
| 6 | a little bit of oxygen, but this was not unusual for | 6 |
| 7 | babies born that early. Otherwise, we were told that | 7 |
| 8 | they were healthy. | 8 |
| 9 | "Father O&P&R was asking the nurses if the babies | 9 |
| 10 | had come out fine, and if their weights were okay. We | 10 |
| 11 | were reassured that their weights were better than | 11 |
| 12 | expected and that they had been born healthy. I cannot | 12 |
| 13 | remember who reassured us, but I think that someone from | 13 |
| 14 | the Neonatal Unit would have been in the theatre so it | 14 |
| 15 | could have been that person. | 15 |
| 16 | "I was expecting my boys to go to the Neonatal Unit | 16 |
| 17 | due to the high risk of my pregnancy because we were | 17 |
| 18 | having triplets and they were premature. | 18 |
| 19 20 | "Throughout my pregnancy, I was told how well it | 19 |
| 20 | was going, so I did not expect the babies to need actual | 20 |
| 21 22 | treatment in the Neonatal Unit. The term 'feed and | 21 22 |
| 22 | grow' was used, and I expected the babies to go to the | 22 |
| 23 24 | Unit to feed and grow and then we would go home. So, we basically understood their going to the Neonatal Unit to | 23 |
| 24 25 | be essentially precautionary. | 24 25 |
| 23 | 9 | 25 |
| | | |
| 1 | the Unit and it was a regular occurrence. Despite this | 1 |
| 2 | reassurance, I wanted to go and see Child O for myself. | 2 |
| 3 | "Doctor U, myself and Father O&P&R got in the lift | 2 |
| 4 | to go down to the Neonatal Unit. I was in my | 4 |
| 5 | wheelchair. Doctor U walked us onto the Unit. | 5 |
| 6 | "We were confronted with a scene of complete chaos. | 6 |
| 7 | It was madness. | 7 |
| 8 | "Nurses were running around left and right grabbing | 8 |
| 9 | medicines and IVs. As soon as I went in, I knew it was | 9 |
| 10 | an issue with one of the boys. | 10 |
| 11 | "When Doctor U saw what was going on, it was | 11 |
| 12 | obvious he didn't have any idea what was happening and | 12 |
| 13 | I could see in his face that he was panicked and | 13 |
| 14 | shocked. | 14 |
| 15 | "I was left in my wheelchair and had to stay | 15 |
| 16 | outside the Unit in the hallway because it was so small | 16 |
| 17 | that there was no space for me. Doctor U didn't say | 17 |
| 18 | a word. Father O&P&R went over to ask what was going | 18 |
| 19 | on. He pulled Doctor U aside, but he didn't know what | 19 |
| 20 | was going on and he simply told us to give the staff | 20 |
| 21 | space to do their job. | 21 |
| 22 | "It was clear that Child O's collapse was | 22 |
| 23 | a complete shock to them. | 23 |
| 24 | "The Neonatal Unit staff were doing anything and | 24 |
| 25 | everything; there were IVs hooked up. I don't remember | 25 |
| | 11 | |
| | | |

I was told that the staff were going to do extra tests

with him that went undetected like a disease or a virus. This was just my assumption, however, as I wasn't told. "The other boys were in a separate room to Child O.

"No one seemed to know how this had happened.

"I thought that Child O maybe had something wrong

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"I am not sure which tests, but I understood they 1 2 wanted to check if they had picked something up. They 3 assured us they weren't looking for anything in 4 particular and it was just routine. 5 "I felt maybe I had passed something onto the boys. 6 "I felt the nurses and doctors didn't have a clue 7 what they were doing during the collapse. At the time, 8 as a parent, I felt like they were doing an inadequate 9 job. 10 "Much later, when we eventually went to Liverpool Women's Hospital, some of the staff there said they had 11 12 heard on the phone that there was a problem with his 13 liver. However, there was nothing concrete so we 14 remained in the dark. 15 "We didn't learn anything further until just before 16 the criminal trial. 17 "Father O&P&R and I were taken to the family room on the Neonatal Unit. A nurse whose name I don't 18 19 remember asked if we wanted to dress Child O but I was 20 too traumatised. I couldn't do it, so the nurse dressed 21 him. 22 "They allowed any family to come onto the Unit to 23 say goodbye. I remember there were quite a few family 24 members present at this time. 25 "The nurses took Child O and I into the room where 13 1 and told me that Child P was really poorly and I needed 2 to get downstairs to the Unit right away. I went down 3 in a wheelchair. 4 "As soon as I got to the Unit, I was confronted 5 with the same chaos and panic as the day before. It was 6 all happening again. They had pushed Child R to the 7 back of the room and Child P was in real trouble. 8 "I phoned my mum to get her to come quickly. 9 "As soon as they managed to stabilise Child P and 10 his stats were improving, he would deteriorate again. This went on for hours. 11 12 "We were given the family room for the day and went 13 in and out, as Child P was being pumped with drugs and 14 resuscitated over and over again. Father O&P&R and his 15 dad stayed to watch as much as they could. 16 "In this period, I was just forgotten. I felt 17 entirely forgotten and ignored. I had no medication or 18 pain relief, and my mum had to get me some food so 19 I could eat. If my mum hadn't been with me, I would not 20 have thought about food or medication. No one was 21 looking after me, and I had just had major surgery 22 (redacted) days before. 23 "Lucy Letby was involved in the attempts to 24 stabilise Child P. She was rushing in and out getting 25 things on the instruction of the doctors.

Child R and Child P were, and they took them out of 2 their cots so I could have a photo of them all together. 3 This is the only picture I have of all three boys 4 together. We could have had professional photos done but we didn't know if Child O had an undiagnosed illness 6 that could be passed on to his brothers, so we didn't 7 want to take any risk. 8 "On this night, I was given my own room with 9 Child O and Father O&P&R stayed with us. 10 "I was very worried about Child R and Child P. 11 I asked the midwife to phone down to the Neonatal Unit 12 to see how they were doing. 13 "On a date in June, at about 6 am, I went down to 14 the Neonatal Unit. This was before the night shift 15 staff changed over. 16 "I was told by the nurse that the boys were 'little 17 angels' and that she had no concerns. She told me to go 18 and have some breakfast and to have a shower because 19 everything was okay. At the criminal trial I found out 20 that Child P had, in fact, been very unwell overnight 21 but at the time I wasn't told this -- in fact I was told 22 the exact opposite. 23 "I went back to the Maternity Ward to have some 24 breakfast. After this, I went to have a shower. 25 "Whilst I was finishing showering, a nurse ran in 14 "I think Dr Brearey was on shift. I remember him 2 saying things looked more hopeful than they did with 3 Child O. Child O did not recover from his collapse, whereas Child P came back round a few times. "Before Child P died, the team had called for 5 6 a transport team to take Child P to Liverpool Women's 7 Hospital. The team eventually arrived, and the 8 Consultant, Dr Rackham, took over. He seemed to be more 9 senior. He was very calm. Other people seemed to 10 listen to him, and he took control. 11 "Eventually, however, he said that he didn't know 12 what had happened and could not believe what was 13 happening, but that he could not do anything else for 14 Child P. 15 "Child P passed away during late afternoon. I was 16 holding him whilst he passed away. 17 "Father O&P&R begged Dr Rackham to take Child R to 18 Liverpool Women's Hospital. Dr Rackham told us that he 19 didn't know if he could due to space because he had come 20 to take Child P. I thought if we didn't get Child R 21 out, he was going to die. Father O&P&R and I did not 22 know what was wrong at this point but I just knew we 23 needed to get Child R out of the Countess of Chester 24 Hospital. I didn't think anything malicious had 25 happened at the time, but I did feel that something had 16

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"They put us in a family room on the Neonatal Unit

and we slept there for a few nights. They made sure

"On the ward, Father O&P&R and I noticed

Countess of Chester Hospital. There were clear hygiene

protocols. For example, we were told to wash our hands before entering the Unit and then again before entering

procedure. Father O&P&R informed the nurse that they didn't do this at the Countess of Chester Hospital.

enough space either side of his cot for any machines or

been offered to me at the Countess of Chester Hospital.

She took Child R out of his cot and put him on my chest

three weeks. This was mainly because they were being

extra cautious given the unexplained deaths of Child O

and Child P. I was very grateful. They said that Child

strictly need to be there, but they would keep him there 18

R was the only child in the Neonatal Unit who didn't

intense at Manchester being there in person. The Defence were just doing their job, but they were saying

things like the doctors were lying about what had

I had to leave the room as I couldn't cope with

stayed to listen to everything.

listening.

to the trial

would happen.

Ρ.

happened and that was really hard. There were some points when the Defence were questioning witnesses that

"Father O&P&R and my mum also went every day and

"I seem to remember speaking to a counsellor at

"When it came to the verdict, Father O&P&R didn't

some point in Manchester to help me cope with listening

feel able to go as it was too much for him mentally. It

just waiting for a decision to be made, hoping something

"Instead, as it was over the school summer

and I went to the Court. I felt I had to be there. I felt torn between the children I had at home and

holidays, Father O&P&R stayed with our children at home

making sure that someone was there for Child O and Child

"I spent almost all of the summer holidays just

waiting and waiting for answers and coming back with 20

also meant a lot of sitting around and doing nothing

with Child R. She couldn't believe that this hadn't

for the first time, which was really special.

"The room that Child R was in was huge; there was

"The nurse asked if I had done skin-to-skin contact

"We stayed at Liverpool Women's Hospital for around

a different level of cleanliness compared to the

the room. The nurse said that this was standard

that we were settled.

screens that were needed.

| 1 | gone wrong in the Unit. I thought that possibly the | 1 |
|----------|--|----------|
| 2 | hospital staff had done something that they shouldn't | 2 |
| 3 | have. But we had no information as to what had happened | 3 |
| 4 | and why, and no one tried to provide any. | 4 |
| 5 | "Dr Rackham said that because the transfer had | 5 |
| 6 | already been arranged,, they could take Child R instead. | 6 |
| 7 | I asked to be transferred to Liverpool Women's Hospital | 7 |
| 8 | to be with him, but I was told it wasn't possible. The | 8 |
| 9 | only way I could be with him was to discharge myself. | 9 |
| 10 | I wasn't willing not to be with him, so a doctor checked | 10 |
| 11 | my stitches and I signed the paperwork to confirm | 11 |
| 12 | self-discharge. | 12 |
| 13 | "Whilst this was happening, Lucy Letby dressed | 13 |
| 14 15 | Child P in the clothes we set aside for him and put his | 14 |
| 15 16 | memory box together. She made a big deal about taking | 15 |
| 17 | photos and seemed quite upset. I remember my mum thanking her for everything she had done. | 16 17 |
| 18 | "Our experience at Liverpool Women's Hospital was | 18 |
| 19 | completely different from the Countess of Chester | 18 |
| 20 | Hospital. When we got to Liverpool Women's Hospital, | 20 |
| 20 | I was in agony from my C-section. Father O&P&R got me | 20 |
| 22 | a wheelchair and we went to reception. Someone came to | 22 |
| 23 | meet us and we were buzzed into the ward. The nurse | 23 |
| 24 | looking after Child R was called Leah Murphy. She took | 24 |
| 25 | us to go and see him. | 25 |
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| 1 | anyway as long as they had space. | 1 |
| 2 | "I think the nurse had been told that Child R's | 2 |
| 3 | siblings had passed away. | 3 |
| 4 | "They made the decision not to give milk to Child | 4 |
| 5 | R, but rather to give him nutrients down a line, as the | 5 |
| 6 | cause of what had happened to Child O and Child P was | 6 |
| 7 | unclear. | 7 |
| 8 | "The staff on the Unit were so thorough. Child R | 8 |
| 9 | had every organ checked. | 9 |
| 10 | "The nurse told me I could get Child R out of his | 10 |
| 11 | cot and I was scared, but she told me that skin-to-skin | 11 |
| 12 | contact was the best thing for a baby and they should | 12 |
| 13 | have done this at the the Countess of Chester Hospital. | 13 |
| 14 | "I was aware of postmortems. When I was waiting to | 14 |
| 15 | be discharged, the nurse said these would be done. | 15 |
| 16 | "Criminal Trial. | 16 |
| 17 | "As I was originally on the list to be a witness, | 17 |
| 18 | I didn't really know anything that was going on during | 18 |
| 19 20 | the trial itself. It was February when our part of the | 19 |
| 20 | trial started, and this was the week before I was taken | 20 |
| 21 | off the list. I therefore went to Manchester for most | 21 |
| 22 23 | of that part. If I couldn't make it to Manchester - for | 22 |
| 23 24 | example, on one day, there was too much snow I watched it from the video link in Chester Court. | 23 24 |
| 24 25 | "I found the trial extremely difficult. It was so | 24 25 |
| 20 | 19 | 20 |
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(5) Pages 17 - 20

| 1 | nothing. However, I was there the day that the verdict | 1 |
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| 2 | was given. | 2 |
| 3 | "I remember that day very clearly. I was sat next | 3 |
| 4 | to a police officer who was holding my hand, and I just | 4 |
| 5 | sat and looked at the floor waiting for them to come in. | 5 |
| 6 | We were at the end as there was a list of names to go | 6 |
| 7 | through. | 7 |
| 8 | "When it finally came to us, I was relieved that | 8 |
| 9 10 | they had made the right decision and reached a guilty verdict for both Child O and Child P's deaths. | 9 10 |
| 11 | "The police officer called Father O&P&R to let him | 10 |
| 12 | know the outcome. | 12 |
| 13 | "I had a sense of relief that we hadn't gone | 12 |
| 14 | through that very distressing process for nothing and | 13 |
| 15 | relieved that we had justice for our sons, but it | 15 |
| 16 | suddenly made everything very real. | 16 |
| 17 | "Impact. | 17 |
| 18 | "I went to see my GP for the first time at some | 18 |
| 19 | point in 2017 about the impact that everything had on my | 19 |
| 20 | mental health. Although things were bad after we lost | 20 |
| 21 | the boys, I think giving my statement in November 2017 | 21 |
| 22 | was what pushed me into significant anxiety. I really | 22 |
| 23 | struggled. | 23 |
| 24 | "My GP prescribed me with anti-depressant | 24 |
| 25 | medication, but I wasn't offered any counselling or | 25 |
| | 21 | |
| 1 | Chester. The surgeon even told me that the caesarean | 1 |
| 2 | scar from Chester was 'so bad' he had taken it away and | 2 |
| 3 | 'thrown it in the bin'. After my child was delivered, | 3 |
| 4 | they was given straight to me for skin-to-skin contact. | 4 |
| 5 | "The team at Arrowe Park were very sensitive to our | 5 |
| 6 | needs and put a butterfly sticker on my file to indicate | 6 |
| 7 | our previous loss. | 7 |
| 8 | "Throughout the criminal trial, I had support from | 8 |
| 9 | a team called Aspire who were at the Court all the time. | 9 |
| 10 | I was also given five after-care sessions via the police | 10 |
| 11 | which I took up, however these have now ended. | 11 |
| 12 | A referral was done via my GP for counselling, however | 12 |
| 13 | the appointment that was booked for me took place while | 13 |
| 14 | I was away so they just discharged me without even | 14 |
| 15 | contacting me to rebook. That was around October 2023 | 15 |
| 16 | and I have had nothing since. | 16 |
| 17 | "There are also really small things which are | 17 |
| 18 | a constant reminder of the children we have lost. For | 18 |
| 19 | example, I had to call 111 when Child R had come home | 19 |
| 20 | because he had a temperature. When I spoke to them, it | 20 |
| 21 22 | meant I had to go through the whole process of | 21 22 |
| 22 | explaining that he was a triplet and born prematurely and this meant the call handler had to ask me about his | 22 |
| 23 24 | brothers and how they were. There are constant | 23 |
| 24 25 | reminders all the time. | 24 |
| 20 | 23 | 20 |
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other mental health related treatment through the NHS at all. "Once the police investigation had started I was offered counselling with them and they put me in touch with someone in Homicide Support who came to see me at home and also arranged a counsellor. This was all before the COVID pandemic. The counsellor was a trauma counsellor and she came to see Father O&P&R and I together at home. 0 "However, once the trial was starting, I was 1 originally going to have to give evidence and this meant 2 I couldn't see anyone at that stage. Eventually, at the last minute, I was taken off the list and I didn't have 3 to give evidence. I don't know why this happened. 4 5 "The events we went through have impacted my faith 6 in the medical profession in a very big way. I found 7 out about the pregnancy with my youngest child before the police made contact. At this time we had already 8 9 made the decision to never return to the the Countess of Chester Hospital, I therefore chose to have my youngest n child at Arrowe Park Hospital as I couldn't bear the 1 2 thought of returning to Chester. I ended up having 3 another caesarean section as I wasn't in labour and the 4 child didn't want to arrive naturally. My experience in theatre that day was very different to when I was at 5 22 "I no longer trust any medics and I find this really difficult when any of the children get ill, as children often do. A few years ago, Child R got his finger trapped ... and had to go for a x-ray. I was so anxious about this and worried about the doctors that I wouldn't allow him to go in on his own, as I just don't trust anyone.

"Since the end of the criminal trial, things have not really got any easier. We have children at home 0 that need us, so we just have to carry on, but it is 1 never ending. It feels like every time I pick myself up, there is something else that comes along to knock me 2 3 back down.

4 "We now have to face the Inquiry, which is taking place, and although we know it is important, it will 5 6 drag lots of very difficult memories up for us again.

"Further Questions in Rule 9 request.

"As far as the Datix reports are concerned, I did 8 9 not know they existed until we saw them in the criminal 0 trial.

"As to when I was first made aware of the number of 1 2 Neonatal deaths at the Neonatal Unit between 3 2015 and 2016, I think I first learned about this from 4 a phone call with the police. In the phone call I was told they needed to speak with me and that they were 5 24

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investigating the boys' deaths. The police officer then 1 2 came round to the house to speak to us. I think this 3 must have been around April/May 2017. 4 "Before that, all I was aware of was that the boys 5 would have a postmortem. From that, we got our first 6 explanation of how they had died. We had a phone call 7 from the Coroner and were told they had put the deaths 8 down to the boys being premature. 9 "In the report we received, the names and the dates 10 of the boys were wrong. I feel they did not give us a good enough explanation. The health of the boys and 11 12 how well they were doing did not match what they were 13 saying. 14 "We found out about the wider problem when the 15 police came to our house; they said that they were 16 looking into the deaths. I thought it was something to 17 do with medical negligence. I didn't think it was going to be murder. The police asked us to tell them what had 18 19 happened. 20 "On 3 July 2018, Father O&P&R got a call from our 21 Family Liaison Officer and they informed us that they 22 had arrested someone on suspicion of murder. This is 23 the first time we ever knew about this. Father O&P&R 24 got the call before we saw it on the news. 25 "Our Family Liason Officer then came to the house 25 1 continued to take on my care, even though we could have 2 been sent to a Neonatal Unit elsewhere. 3 "As far as medical records are concerned, I did not 4 know that we could ask for them, and if I had we would 5 have requested them. 6 "Father O&P&R and I were not offered any support or 7 counselling by the Countess of Chester Hospital. The 8 possibility of support was never even mentioned. The 9 first time we were offered support was through Homicide 10 Support and then at the criminal trial. 11 "I spoke to the Honeysuckle Counselling Team at 12 Liverpool Women's Hospital a few times; they gave me 13 some leaflets and arranged for Father O&P&R to see the 14 boys in a room, and they did a professional photo for 15 us. 16 "The Honeysuckle Team was not full counselling; it 17 was more just being made aware that there was support 18 available. Because of what I had been through, I needed 19 someone to give me support and push me because I could not do it myself, but nobody did. 20 21 "Myself and Father O&P&R were only fully offered 22 support when we went to the criminal trial in 2023; this 23 was seven years after this happened. We were also 24 offered support through Homicide Support. 25 "I do not know what PALS is and have no experience

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that morning and told us that Lucy Letby had been arrested.

"We were devastated and in a state of disbelief because Lucy Letby was the one who was looking after the boys.

"When we had been in the Neonatal Unit, Lucy Letby did not stand out more than any of the other nurses.

She was visibly upset when the boys died. She put both boys in the cot together and she was crying.

"It was Lucy Letby's idea to take photos of the
 boys. She dressed them and then took photos of them
 together.

"I was never told anything about Letby by the
Countess of Chester Hospital. It was only during the
trial I found out that she had been suspended and taken
off the ward. I think I may have also seen this on the
news.

"I do not believe that the Countess of Chester
Hospital were honest with us at any stage. In my view,
they never should have taken on our care in the first
place. We were not made aware of the higher mortality
rate in the Neonatal Unit - which we now know they were
aware of at that stage. I think as parents we should
have been informed of this.
"They knew that something untoward was going on a

"They knew that something untoward was going on and 26

1 of it. 2 "Suggestions and Recommendations. 3 "I believe that the Countess of Chester Hospital 4 knew much more than they have admitted to publicly about 5 Letby's crimes and I understand from my solicitors that 6 by the time my children were born there, there were 7 already serious concerns about Letby. Obviously, we 8 want to see what evidence comes out about this in the 9 Inquiry, but clearly, hospital management should have 10 been much more responsive when concerns were raised, 11 rather than ignoring or covering up concerns to protect 12 the reputation of the hospital and the Neonatal Unit. 13 "The information sharing with us was not adequate. 14 It was worse than that - it was basically non-existent. 15 Everything I have since found out about what really 16 happened I have learned through the police, through the 17 trial and through my solicitors. Within the NHS there 18 is supposed to be a duty of candour. Nobody at the 19 Countess of Chester Hospital was candid with us. The 20 duty of candour needs to be made legally enforceable. 21 "I believe that there should be CCTV in every 22 Neonatal Unit, so that what happens to babies is 23 recorded on camera and can be checked. 24 "I also believe that there should be proper 25 monitoring of access to medicines, so it can be checked 28

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| 1 | who has accessed particular items. |
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| 2 | "Finally, there should be clear protocols to |
| 3 | provide support, (to include counselling), full |
| 4 | information and guidance to parents who have been |
| 5 | bereaved or whose children have been harmed." |
| 6 | That concludes the statement of Mother O&P&R. |
| 7 | Thank you, my Lady. |
| 8 | LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: Thank you very much, |
| 9 | Mr Scorer. |
| 10 | Father O&P&R, I think we're going to have a short |
| 11 | break. If you just let us know when you are ready. |
| 12 | MR SCORER: Thank you, my Lady. |
| 13 | (10.37 am) |
| 14 | (Short Break) |
| 15 | (10.44 am) |
| 16 | LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: When you are ready. |
| 17 | MR SCORER: My Lady, I will now read the statement |
| 18 | of Father O&P&R. |
| 19 | LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: Thank you. |
| 20 | FATHER O&P&R statement read |
| 21 | MR SCORER: "I, Father O&P&R, will say as follows: |
| 22 | "I make this statement in response to the Inquiry's |
| 23 | Rule 9 request. This statement should be read in |
| 24 | conjunction with my police and Victim Impact statements. |
| 25 | "Experience of Countess of Chester Hospital. |
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| 1 | "After we spoke to the Consultant at the Countess |
| 2 | of Chester Hospital we were referred to Liverpool |
| 3 | Women's Hospital the next day to make sure everything |
| 4 | was okay. We had to deal with a difficult conversation |
| 5 | about potentially stopping one baby's heart to help |
| 6 | another thrive, but Mother O&P&R and I both agreed that |
| 7 | we wanted to let things progress naturally. We had |
| 8 | a big talk about it but we were both on the same page |
| 9 | and wanted the best for all three children. Looking |
| 10 | back, the babies' heartbeat Liverpool Women's Hospital |
| 11 | wanted to stop was in fact Child R, so if we had gone |
| 12 | ahead with this we could have lost all of our boys. |
| 13 | "After that difficult conversation, things got |
| 14 | better and better. I recall all the doctors and |
| 15 | midwives being really surprised that Mother O&P&R was |
| 16 | doing as well as she was. It did feel at times like |
| 17 | they were all waiting for something bad to happen, but |
| 18 | everything was fine all the way through her pregnancy. |
| 19 | "As she got bigger, we made jokes about how she |
| 20 | would make it through the scan because the three growing |
| 21 | babies put so much pressure on her abdomen, that |
| 22 | applying the scanning equipment made her feel faint. On |
| | |

"However, we were told that the likelihood of

delighted with her progress.

one occasion she did actually pass out, but everyone was

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"Before Mother O&P&R became pregnant in 2015, we already had one child who was born at the Countess of Chester Hospital. The birth went fine, there were no complications and we considered that the care provided was good "When Mother O&P&R found out she was pregnant again, I went to the booking appointment and all scanning and medical appointments at the Countess of Chester Hospital with her, as it was important for me to be involved in the process and to support her. "I remember the day we found out we were having triplets really clearly. It was at the 12-week scan and while the sonographer was checking the imaging I was sure I could see two heads on the screen. I told Mother O&P&R what I could see and she thought I was being silly, but the sonographer replied that she thought that there were more than two. We then found out there were three babies. "We were so shocked that Mother O&P&R burst into tears; partly from surprise/excitement and partly because it suddenly hit us both that we would need to find a way to (redacted) support three babies as well as ourselves and our oldest child. It felt like a once in a lifetime opportunity to welcome three children at once. I felt really blessed in that moment. 30 Mother O&P&R delivering at the Countess of Chester Hospital was quite slim as they thought it unlikely that they would have enough beds and nurses available to care for them. We were warned that we would probably need to travel some distance to go to another hospital for delivery - Birmingham and London were mentioned but we were told to expect to go anywhere. So I did not expect our babies to be born at the Countess of Chester Hospital. Myself and Mother O&P&R were explicitly told throughout her pregnancy that they would only be born there if there was a nurse and a bed for each baby. I was told by the Consultants, Jill and Jim McCormack, that it would be very unlikely that we would have them at the the Countess of Chester Hospital. "We had no set plans for our future working arrangements once the babies had arrived, but our loose idea was for Mother O&P&R to go back to work after about nine months and for me to take over, and I would

eventually also go back to work once we were all ina comfortable routine.

21 "Mother O&P&R had scans every two weeks at the
22 Countess of Chester Hospital except for a couple which
23 were performed at Liverpool Women's Hospital.
24 "We decided to find out the sex of the babies and

24 "We decided to find out the sex of the babies and25 to figure out who was who, to make it easier to identify

them all. The babies stayed in the same position 1 2 throughout her pregnancy, so this made it easier to keep 3 track of them. I cannot be certain, but I think we 4 found out that they were all boys at around 20 weeks. 5 We named them 6 "Mother O&P&R and I expected the boys to go onto 7 the Neonatal Unit due to the fact that we were having 8 triplets and this was high risk. I was told by 9 Dr McCormack that myself and Mother O&P&R would be able 10 to go and look around the Neonatal Unit at the Countess of Chester Hospital but this was put off and we did not 11 12 end up going. The tour was supposed to put our minds at 13 rest and give us reassurance as we had never experienced 14 a Neonatal Unit before. 15 "Mother O&P&R started to have some tightenings at 16 around 30 weeks, so we thought it best to go to the 17 Countess of Chester Hospital to make sure that 18 everything was okay. When we got there, I really got 19 the impression that they weren't very happy that we had 20 come in, because Mother O&P&R wasn't ready to go into 21 labour. We knew that to be the case, having been 22 through this before; we went out of caution and concern, 23 but it felt as though caring for Mother O&P&R's 24 pregnancy was a little too much for them. 25 "While Mother O&P&R was admitted to the Countess of 33 1 theatre with her. It struck me how cold looking and 2 dingy the room felt, and it didn't fill me with 3 confidence. The state of the theatre was like something 4 out of a horror film, ;when I walked in there 5 I immediately felt uneasy. It was very cold and 6 unhygienic. When you go to a dentist, it is all 7 clinical and clean, but this was not the case with the 8 theatre. The room was really small with half a dozen 9 doctors. I was standing by Mother O&P&R's head but 10 I could also see the other side of the screen.

11 "My first impression of the lead surgeon was that 12 she was very young. The surgeon was of a slim build, 13 tall with curly hair; I cannot remember her name. 14 I remember asking Mother O&P&R if she was the person who 15 was going to be delivering the babies. It was my 16 expectation that Dr McCormack would be delivering the 17 boys but he had booked annual leave. We had put our 18 trust in Dr McCormack and he was there through the 19 pregnancy reassuring us that everything was going so 20 well. It was disappointing for him not to be there at 21 the end 22 "As the boys were being delivered, I watched the 23 whole process including the first incisions being made 24 and the boys being pulled out. I was warned that

25 I might not want to watch but I did.

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Chester Hospital as a precaution, my family had to help 1 2 us with child care for our eldest child as I spent as 3 much time in the hospital with Mother O&P&R as I could, 4 in case something happened. Mother O&P&R was eventually discharged home as she wasn't ready to go into labour. 5 6 "On an evening in June 2016 Mother O&P&R started 7 having contractions late at night, at home. We called 8 the hospital, and they told us to come straight in 9 because she was high risk. 10 "Again, it felt like they didn't really appreciate 11 us being there once we arrived - a date had been booked 12 for Mother O&P&R's caesarean section and we got the 13 impression that going in early was a big inconvenience 14 for them, even though she was obviously not in control of her contractions starting. 15 "The first doctor we saw was really young and this 16 17 made me feel a little nervous. 18 "the Countess of Chester Hospital confirmed that in 19 fact, contrary to expectations, they did have enough 20 beds for all three boys if they did arrive and they 21 therefore agreed to keep Mother O&P&R in overnight. 22 They eventually confirmed that she would have the 23 caesarean section. 24 "The following day, Mother O&P&R was taken down to 25 theatre for the procedure and I went into the operating 34 1 "The first incision they made caused a big spray of 2 blood to go across the room. It went so high, it 3 reached the wall behind Mother O&P&R and I and a small 4 amount landed on her head. Again, this left me feeling 5 somewhat nervous. I watched the boys come out one by 6 one and saw that they were all being checked over. 7 "It was a huge relief to see all of them come out 8 safely. 9 "When the boys were delivered, they were crying. 10 The nurses brought Child R over to see Mother O&P&R for 11 a few minutes. Whilst Mother O&P&R was being sewn back 12 up, I went over to see the boys to see if they were 13 doing okay. I was told one needed some assistance.

- 14 I asked the nurse if they were okay and she told me
- everything was okay and he just needed some oxygen.
 They assured me that all boys were born sound and
- 17 healthy with very good weights. After Child P had some
- 18 oxygen, he perked up. I asked lots of questions, if
- they had come out fine and if their weights were okay.I was reassured that their weights were better than
- 21 expected, they had been born healthy and normal.
- 22 I cannot remember who was specifically reassuring me.
- 23 I think it was someone from the Neonatal Unit who was in
- theatre with us, so it could have been them.
- 25 "I was expecting the boys to go to the Neonatal 36

| 1 | Unit because they were premature triplets. Due to how | 1 |
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| 2 | well the pregnancy went and the reassurance we had, we | 2 |
| 3 | did not expect them to need any treatment. The doctors | 3 |
| 4 | used the term 'feed and grow'. Mother O&P&R and | 4 |
| 5 | I expected the babies to go to the Unit, feed and grow | 5 |
| 6 | and then go home. We did not expect them to need any | 6 |
| 7 | special treatment; there was nothing actually wrong with | 7 |
| 8 | them. The doctors and nurses reassured me that the boys | 8 |
| 9 | were healthy. I was expecting them to be less than 3lbs | 9 |
| 10 | at the biggest. In my eyes, they were considerably | 10 |
| 11 | bigger than what everyone expected. | 11 |
| 12 | "I believe that Mother O&P&R only saw Child R | 12 |
| 13 | immediately after the delivery, because Child P and | 13 |
| 14 | Child O needed some initial support. Because he was | 14 |
| 15 | more stable, a few photos were taken of Child R being | 15 |
| 16 | held next to Mother O&P&R by one of the nurses. | 16 |
| 17 | "After the boys were delivered, Mother O&P&R was | 17 |
| 18 | taken to the ward so she could be looked after, and | 18 |
| 19 | I went down to the Neonatal Unit to see the boys. I was | 19 |
| 20 | down there for around 45 minutes and was able to have | 20 |
| 21 | some skin-to-skin contact with Child R. After that, | 21 |
| 22 | I went upstairs to see Mother O&P&R. | 22 |
| 23 | The following day] we had lots of family members | 23 |
| 24 | visiting that day, but Mother O&P&R was in a lot of pain | 24 |
| 25 | and she needed help with showering and her personal | 25 |
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| 1 | "Everything had been fine when I left to go and | 1 |
| 2 | meet my dad, but when we got back there it was absolute | 2 |
| 3 | pandemonium. | 3 |
| 4 | "Doctors and nurses were all running around and it | 4 |
| 5 | was extremely busy and overwhelming with the number of | 5 |
| 6 | doctors and nurses packed into the room. No one told me | 6 |
| 7 | what was happening, and they were all just rushing | 7 |
| 8 | around. There were lots of different things being put | 8 |
| 9 | into lines and tubes. | 9 |
| 10 | "All I got told was that there was a problem with | 10 |
| 11 | Child O and then I got ushered to one side and told | 11 |
| 12 | a doctor would come and see me. | 12 |
| 13 | "I went up to the ward to go and get Mother O&P&R. | 13 |
| 14 | I told her there had been a problem and she needed to | 14 |
| 15 | come down to the Unit. | 15 |
| 16 | "Mother O&P&R needed to be in a wheelchair because | 16 |
| 17 | of her surgery so I wheeled her down to the Unit. The | 17 |
| 18 | journey down there was agonising for her because every | 18 |
| 19 | time the wheelchair went round a corner, or over | 19 |
| 20 | a threshold or bump it caused her a lot of pain. When | 20 |
| 21 | we arrived, I couldn't get her close enough that she | 21 |
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| | could see Child O or be near him because of the | 22 |
| 22 | could see Child O or be near him because of the wheelchair and volume of people in there. She ended up | 22 23 |
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care, so although I did try and spend as much time as possible with the boys, I also had to balance this with making sure Mother O&P&R was looked after and seeing family. "That night, I left the hospital and stayed at home with our eldest child and then returned to hospital the next day. "On the following day, my dad came to the hospital to see us and to meet the boys. You are only allowed one parent plus one visitor on to the Neonatal Unit at a time, or both parents, so Mother O&P&R and I agreed that I would meet my dad and take him down there. "I think I met him at the hospital reception, as I recall that he didn't really know where to go, and we then walked to the Neonatal Unit together. "On the way down, I bumped into Dr U who was coming to speak to Mother O&P&R. He didn't seem panicked, he was calm. He reassured me that everything was fine and there was no reason to be alarmed, but Child O needed some help and they had put a breathing tube in. This was around 3 pm.

"Dr U, my dad and I got into the lift and came down to the Unit. When we walked through the doors you could see Dr U didn't have a clue what was going on; I could

see in his face that he was panicked and shocked.

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try and find out what was happening. Mother O&P&R had called her mum to come to the hospital and she arrived and waited with Mother O&P&R. "We didn't get any explanation of what was happening even though I was standing close to what was going on. We had no idea what had gone wrong. I know that somebody mentioned swelling on his abdomen, and this was something I could see for myself; his stomach had popped out almost like a pot belly. His skin was a different colour and it looked almost like there was something pulsating through his veins. "The doctors seemed as baffled as we were, and no one could tell us why things had suddenly gone so wrong. It was really shocking. I have no medical training and it felt like the doctors were essentially in the same boat as me. "Shortly before we were given the news that they would have to stop trying to resuscitate Child O, they asked whether we wanted to have him christened. We both did, so me, Mother O&P&R and her mum were present when the priest came down and christened him. "Shortly after he was christened, Child O passed away. "After he was gone, he was passed to Mother O&P&R so that she could hold him. I was devastated. 40

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"We were given sole use of the family room, which 1 1 2 2 was usually for all Neonatal Unit families to use. We 3 were conscious that there were other families on the 3 ward at the time that all of this was happening, so we 4 4 5 were grateful for a space where we could try and take 5 6 stock of what had happened and have some privacy. 6 "Mother O&P&R and I spent some time with Child O in 7 7 8 the family room before I had to deliver the awful news 8 9 9 to my mum. 10 10 "Someone suggested that we get a camera and take some photos and they would give us a blank SD card so we 11 11 12 could keep them. I tried to dress Child O but 12 13 I couldn't bring myself to do it. He was cold and so 13 14 still and I just couldn't do it. 14 15 "Someone else dressed him and we took some more 15 16 photos and I also brought my mum up to see him. We were 16 17 in the room for a while and just sort of sat in there 17 18 18 for the evening. 19 "We took a photo of all the boys together on this 19 20 day and this is the only picture we have of the three of 20 21 21 them together. 22 "That night, Mother O&P&R was moved off the ward 22 23 and into a separate room which meant I could stay there 23 24 24 with her 25 "I couldn't let Child O out of my sight. I wasn't 25 41 1 'Dad, it's all happening again'. 1 2 "We rushed back to the Unit, and it was like 2 3 déjà vu. It was almost an exact repeat of the day 3 4 before. 4 5 "Everyone was running around like headless chickens 5 6 looking like they had no idea what was wrong. I asked 6 7 7 one of the doctors what was going on and said 'it's 8 happening again, isn't it'. Nothing was said to me; 8 9 no one could explain it, again. 9 10 "They couldn't tell me what was happening, just 10 11 11 that they were doing everything they could for him. In my mind, I could already see it was the same. Child P 12 12 had the same mottling on his skin, the same distension 13 13 14 on his belly and I just knew it was the same thing, even 14 15 though I didn't know what that thing was. 15 16 "I can't be sure, but I think there were doctors 16 17 there that day that hadn't been present the day before, 17 18 perhaps even more Consultants. I remember watching as 18 19 an incision was put into Child P's chest to help his 19 20 lungs and because there was no space, they had to put 20 21 a screen up in the hallway. 21 22 "Mother O&P&R was, again, stuck outside in her 22 23 wheelchair, also with no idea what was happening. 23 24 "There was another doctor at what looked like 24 25 25 a makeshift desk using a screen to look up how to 43

ready to be away from him, so he stayed in the room with us all night in the cold cot. Neither Mother O&P&R nor I slept that night. I knew it would be the last time that I would see him. A nurse came and collected him in the morning "Overnight, Mother O&P&R called down to the ward a few times to make sure that Child P and Child R were okay and each time they said everything was fine. "On the following day, Mother O&P&R and I both went down to the ward to see Child P and Child R first thing in the morning. The nurse we saw at first was lovely and said they had both been little angels. She said they had been feeding well and opening their bowels as normal and there was nothing to worry about. "It later came out as part of the criminal trial that there had been some minor issues to do with the numbers on their charts, but I don't really recall what this was, and it was apparently nothing significant. "Mother O&P&R went back up to the ward so she could have a shower and I stayed down on the Unit and, similarly to the previous day, I had planned to go and meet my dad. "Literally just before I was due to go and collect him, it all happened again. "I had to go and get him and when he arrived I said 42 perform the chest drain and where the incisions and tubes should go. It looked as though they were following a tutorial and not as if they really knew what they were doing. His resuscitation went on for a really long time and we were eventually told that they would arrange to transfer him to Liverpool Women's Hospital. However, they needed to wait for transport to come and get him. That wait felt like it was hours, although, in reality, it was probably much shorter. "While all of this was happening, Lucy Letby was involved in Child P's resuscitation. "I saw a nurse Googling a procedure; she was youngish. She had a PC screen in front of her and as soon as I saw this come up on the screen I panicked. I was confused as to why she was Googling this. The procedure was a lung drain. On the screen there was an image of a person with an arrow pointing to where the incision should be. It was a medical diagram. I think the staff heard me talking about it; I was angry at this point. I can remember other staff coming over to the computer to look at it; they all had a word with each other and did the procedure. This was worrying me because it is an everyday procedure, one that hospital staff must do day in and day out. 44

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"When the Consultant from Liverpool Women's 1 2 Hospital Dr Rackham arrived, there was such a shift and 3 change in the atmosphere. He was so good. He was calm 4 and confident and gave clear instructions to everyone 5 about what they should be doing. Despite how calm he 6 was I could sense how shocked he was that nothing they 7 had tried was working. 8 "Dr Rackham eventually came over to us and he said 9 they had tried everything and there was nothing more 10 they could do. They asked if we wanted him to be christened, which we did. His support was stopped 11 12 shortly after he was christened. 13 "I remember Dr Rackham passing Child P to Mother 14 O&P&R and saying he didn't know what had happened and 15 that he couldn't believe it. He said that they had done 16 everything they could have done. 17 "Mother O&P&R was holding Child P as he passed 18 away. It was heartbreaking. 19 "I remember feeling quite angry at this stage and 20 I felt as though the hospital could have done more to 21 help the boys. I just felt that something wasn't right, 22 and I knew that if they didn't take Child R to Liverpool 23 Women's Hospital, he wouldn't survive. 24 "Mother O&P&R felt the same and I remember her 25 saying to me 'take my boy out of here now'. 45 1 She said it wasn't up to her to make the final decision, but she would try to keep us updated. Dr V was very

2 3 upset and kept apologising to us, but it just felt like 4 a lot of sorrys were given which didn't really help us 5 because we didn't understand how it had happened. She 6 told me that they would get to the bottom of it, she 7 took me into her private office and explained 8 a postmortem or autopsy might be needed and in this case 9 we should argue one be done. I told her we needed 10 answers and it needed to be done. "Mother O&P&R and I were then taken to another 11 family room at the other end of the Labour Ward. Child 12 13 R and Child P were brought in together with Child P in 14 a cold cot. Lucy Letby was present in that room, and 15 she had dressed Child P. We took some photos of the 16 boys together. Lucy Letby made a very big deal about 17 taking photos of the boys and making memory boxes. 18 "In order for Mother O&P&R to be able to go with 19 Child R to Liverpool Women's Hospital, she was forced to 20 discharge herself. She still needed care and medication 21 after her surgery and we asked several times for her 22 care to be transferred, but they said this wasn't 23 possible. We were never told why. This meant she had 24 to sign paperwork to discharge herself even though she

25 still needed support.

I approached the Consultant from Liverpool Women's 2 Hospital and said that we weren't happy leaving Child R 3 in the care of the Countess of Chester Hospital, knowing 4 that something had gone really wrong with both our boys in just 24 hours. I told him I thought that if he 5 6 stayed there, he would be next and I genuinely felt that 7 to be true. 8 "In not so many words, he indicated that he agreed 9 there was a risk to Child R and that because they had 10 agreed to take one baby back with them, he made some 11 calls to try and arrange it. He spent about 12 10-15 minutes making calls and explaining to the 13 hospital what had happened, and it felt like he was 14 having to fight for us. When we found out that he had 15 managed to get it agreed, we were delighted. We really 16 felt that Child R would be safer there. 17 "Shortly after this, I was out in the courtyard 18 with Dr V. She gave me a hug and told me that they had 19 tried everything. She couldn't believe that this had 20 happened to both boys so quickly. I recall Dr V pulling 21 me to one side and asking if we wanted there to be 22 a postmortem report for Child P. She said that they 23 don't always do one, but this can be arranged sometimes. 24 I said we definitely wanted one done as I knew something 25 wasn't right and I really pushed for this to be done.

1 "Child R was then transferred in an ambulance and 2 we were encouraged to go home in between to get some 3 fresh clothes and to avoid following the ambulance, so 4 we didn't panic if they had to pull over for any reason. 5 The transfer team were brilliant and even texted us once 6 Child R had arranged, so we knew he was safe and we 7 could start our journey to the hospital. 8 "we drove to the hospital once we knew Child R had arrived. Mother O&P&R was in agony. Every time the car 9 10 went over a bump, she was in a lot of pain and this was

only adding to her upset.

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12 "When we arrived at Liverpool Women's Hospital, 13 I got Mother O&P&R a wheelchair and we went to 14 reception. Someone came to meet us and we were buzzed 15 in. They put us in the family room on the Neonatal Unit 16 and we slept there for a few nights. The staff made 17 sure that we were settled. 18 "Leah Murphy was the nurse looking after Child R; 19 she came to see us and took us to see him. 20 "As soon as I arrived on the Unit, I noticed 21 a different level of cleanliness on the Unit compared to 22 the Countess of Chester Hospital. We were told to wash

23 our hands before entering the Unit and the room. The 24 nurse said that this was standard procedure. I told her

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25 we were never asked to do this at the Countess of

(12) Pages 45 - 48

1 Chester Hospital. The room Child R was in was huge; 2 there was enough space either side for any machines or 3 screens that were needed. 4 "Every detail was explained to us. The nurse told 5 Mother O&P&R and I about the monitors and what it means 6 when they go off. They said not to worry unless we see 7 them worry. They were really reassuring as we were 8 already panicked. I think the nurse must have been told 9 that two siblings had passed away. 10 "We were there for three and a half weeks. We did not need to be there; we were there as a precaution. 11 12 The staff made the decision to starve Child R as there 13 was no evidence from the Countess of Chester Hospital of 14 what had happened to his brothers. They said that they 15 would not feed him for now as they needed to take 16 precautions. They were so thorough. Child R had all 17 his organs checked. I felt like they knew more; they handled situations so much better. We had seen a few 18 19 very poorly babies in there and not one of them died: 20 every baby pulled through and we knew that Child R was 21 in safe hands. 22 "The nurse told Mother O&P&R she could get Child R 23 out of his cot and she was scared. The nurse told us 24 that skin-to-skin was the best thing for a baby and that 25 we should have been doing this before. Mother O&P&R had 49 1 we found out that the police investigation was starting, 2 and this really changed things. 3 "I had always known that something wasn't right in 4 what happened to the boys and although the police 5 involvement was some validation of my concerns, it was 6 also overwhelming. 7 "It sickened me to think that the police had to be 8 involved in a hospital investigation and as we weren't 9 told about the nature of the investigation, it made it 10 really difficult to understand and cope. 11 "There were so many different scenarios and 12 possibilities going through our heads about what might 13 have happened and why the police were involved. Mother 14 O&P&R blamed herself for what had happened to the boys, 15 thinking she had done something wrong during pregnancy 16 or passed something on to them. I blamed myself and 17 thought I might have passed something on to them. We 18 both blamed ourselves, although Mother O&P&R felt this 19 more strongly than I did. It was hard to try and tell 20 her it wasn't her fault; anything I told her she just 21 didn't want to hear. 22 "My gut feeling had always been that something 23 medically had been done wrong to the boys because of the 24 way their abdomens had been swollen and I just knew 25 something was not right. I didn't always think it was

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never had skin-to-skin contact with Child R before this. 1 2 She was scared that she would pass something on to him. 3 The staff said Child R was the only child in Intensive 4 Care who did not need to be there. During the three and a half weeks, he moved down the rooms in stages. 5 6 "Before the boys were born we rented an old house 7 that had issues with damp and mould. It wasn't 8 something that bothered Mother O&P&R and I, but we 9 didn't feel comfortable taking Child R back to the 10 house, particularly because we still didn't know what 11 had happened to Child O and Child P. We couldn't take 12 anv risks. 13 "We therefore stayed with our families initially. 14 [We were very grateful to be put up but it wasn't 15 really] the ideal situation. 16 "Mother O&P&R was very distressed and couldn't deal 17 with anything which meant I had to try and sort 18 everything out with the house, but it was difficult for 19 me, so I ended up asking my dad to arrange everything 20 for us. 21 "After we left hospital with Child R and were more 22 settled in our home, we just tried to cope with 23 day-to-day life as best we could. I was trying to work 24 but I was struggling emotionally. We received no help 25 from the Countess of Chester Hospital or the NHS. Then 50 1 malicious, but I thought something had been given 2 incorrectly with the amount of medicine they were 3 pumping into the boys, or even that CPR had been done 4 too vigorously. Mother O&P&R didn't really vocalise any 5 theories as much as me; she is much quieter and tends to 6 just keep to herself. It was only when the police had 7 shed light on the events that everything fell into place 8 with what I was thinking, and it all made sense from 9 what I had seen. 10 "Mother O&P&R was particularly anxious about being 11 kept in the dark and couldn't understand why we weren't 12 being told anything. It was very frustrating and made 13 us both really nervous. 14 "As time went on, the police started asking us more 15 and more about specific shifts and specific members of 16 staff and, over time, Lucy Letby's name came up more 17 frequently. Mother O&P&R and I both remembered her from 18 our time at the hospital. 19 "I remember the day they told us that she had been 20 arrested, and our hearts sank. It was so difficult to 21 understand at first because she had been so visibly

a shift she came across as quite robotic and cold, butafter Child P died, she appeared to be devastated.

25 "Criminal Trial.

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upset when Child P passed away. When she was working on

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"At the start of the trial, Mother O&P&R was 1 2 a potential witness, so she wasn't allowed to watch or 3 listen to anything relating to the proceedings. She took herself off of all social media platforms and 4 5 avoided the news. I followed everything for the first 6 week religiously. I was glued to my phone and texting 7 my parents any developments that happened. It was 8 a strange time because Mother O&P&R and I couldn't 9 discuss any of it and we were very strict about this as 10 we were not willing to risk jeopardising any conviction. "After around a week, I stopped following what was 11 12 happening because of not being able to speak to Mother 13 O&P&R about it. It was more important to me to support 14 Mother O&P&R than follow what was happening and I was 15 worried about slipping up.

16 "I started re-following events once Mother O&P&R 17 found out that she was no longer going to be a witness, 18 which was towards the end. That's also when the police 19 disclosed more information to us about what had happened 20 and the rest of the trial.

21 "A Family Liaison Officer came over to our house, 22 and Mother O&P&R's mum came too and that's when we got 23 all the information about what had happened to Child O 24 and Child P and how it all happened. This was the first 25 time we knew or had any idea of why the boys had died.

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1 "The verdict arrived during the school summer holidays, but we didn't know when it could come and 2 3 no one could give us any idea of timescales for the 4 decision. We could either go there every day and wait 5 all day long, or chance it and not go. The children 6 were off school, so I stayed at home with them and 7 Mother O&P&R went to the Court every single day and 8 waited all day on her own, while I looked after the 9 kids.

10 "This was tough for me as I had been at the Court 11 all the way along for our parts, and then couldn't be 12 there for the most important bit.

13 "The day that the verdict was given Mother O&P&R 14 was at the Court. A police officer called me once the 15 decision had been read out. By this point, there was no 16 doubt in my mind that Lucy Letby was responsible, so 17 I ended up just finding it reassuring that the right 18 thing had been done.

19 "Mother O&P&R and I have both lost a lot of faith 20 in the medical profession now and this has only been 21 made worse by my experience of trying to get mental 22 health support.

23 "When it comes to our children and getting medical 24 treatment, I would say that Mother O&P&R and I are both 25 now quite anxious about them. We are very alert to any 55

"We were given lots of paperwork to read, which 2 explained all the medical terms and what had happened, 3 but it was really hard to see it all written down. We 4 had spent all those years making up scenarios about what might have happened and blaming ourselves and seeing it 6 there in black and white was devastating. Once we knew what had happened, in a way, it seemed quite obvious. We both used to watch medical dramas and have seen 8 episodes before where similar sorts of things happen, 9 10 and they always talk about how difficult it is to 11 detect. 12 "After we knew what had happened, we did start to 13 attend the trial -- either in person or by video link at 14 Chester. Both Mother O&P&R and I only attended anything 15 to do with our family. I didn't want to read into what 16 happened to the other children. I didn't feel I could

17 cope. 18 "It was a nightmare for us to get to Manchester 19 Crown Court to attend any of the Court days. We didn't 20 have a car which meant relying on a Family Liaison 21 Officer -- the children would have to go to our family 22 so they could be taken to school, we attended a full day 23 in Court and then it sometimes took us (redacted) hours 24 to get home because of traffic. Some weeks it was like 25 that for days on end.

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1 health issues they might have and probably overly 2 anxious about them getting unwell. I am fine taking 3 them to the local doctor or GP but it's another issue if 4 we have to take them to hospital. 5 "I still have very vivid nightmares and don't sleep 6 well. Even at the weekend, I still cannot really sleep. 7 I am often sat up until 1 am unable to switch my brain 8 off and when I go to bed, I still about everything that 9 has happened. 10 "I have visions and nightmares approximately every 11 other night, of being back at the hospital. They tend 12 to be about the boys and are a mix of specific things 13 I remember happening at the time; the colour of their 14 veins and their veins pulsating is something which comes 15 up a lot. I also have angry dreams where I tell myself 16 I should have done more. I have also had angry dreams 17 about Lucy Letby. 18 "I cry a lot more than I used to before all of this 19 happened. I never used to cry about anything, only at 20 something like a family funeral. But now, I get upset 21 easily. I am more affected by emotional situations

22 generally if I see something sad. There was an incident 23 a while ago where I witnessed an older lady fall and hit 24 her head. I called an ambulance for her, and I think

25 she was okay. I wouldn't usually have been affected by 56

it, but I found it really harrowing to deal with and 1 2 remember the sound of her head hitting the floor. 3 "I am also now far more emotional when I think 4 about life in general. I often think about sad things 5 like my dad getting older and that worries and upsets 6 me, whereas I would usually just get on with things. 7 "The Inquiry's Further Questions. 8 "The Inquiry in its Rule 9 request has raised 9 various detailed questions concerning our dealings with 10 the Countess of Chester Hospital after our children's deaths, particularly in the period 2017-18. 11 "I would like to answer these questions but I need 12 13 to explain that, unfortunately, I cannot add much to the 14 information already set out above, and set out in my 15 police and Victim Impact statements and in the 16 documentary record. I wish to help the Inquiry as much 17 as possible, but the simple fact is that as a result of 18 everything we went through, much of what occurred in the 19 period 2017-2018 is now a blur. As a result, I am 20 struggling to answer the Inquiry's detailed questions. 21 "When these events happened, all my instincts were 22 that something in the hospital had gone badly wrong. 23 I found it impossible to believe that these things could 24 happen without some serious mistake, failure or 25 culpability on the hospital's part. But I am obviously 57

1 we learnt a lot more at the trial. For example, we had 2 never seen the Datix reports before the trial. I didn't 3 even know they existed until the trial. The trial was 4 the first time we saw them.

5 "I confirm that we received some letters from Ian 6 Harvey. I am aware that there is a record of me calling 7 the hospital and that I was very distraught. I have no 8 memory now of making that call. Of course, I entirely 9 accept that I did make it, and that I would have been 10 very distraught. I simply have no memory of it. It was 11 such a traumatic time, and I have probably pushed things 12 out of my conscious memory in order to cope.

13 "I hope the Inquiry will recognise that very few 14 parents who experience the sort of trauma that we did 15 are realistically going to be in a position to take on 16 the system and get answers. Every parent in this situation should be properly supported and given access 17 18 to high-quality counselling. But even with that, most 19 parents in this situation are not going to be able to 20 push for answers. We can only get answers if those in 21 positions of authority, who have information, are 22 required to be candid and honest. This simply did not 23 happen. I have heard talk about the duty of candour but 24 it was certainly not honoured by the Countess of Chester 25 Hospital in this case.

1 not trained in science or medicine, so I was not in 2 a position to know what might have gone wrong, or even 3 where to start looking. More than that, I had lost two children and was utterly devastated. My life had fallen 4 5 apart 6 "Following the deaths of our children, we did not 7 receive any support or counselling from anyone. Had we 8 received some support, we might have been in a better 9 position to try to act on what our instincts were telling us, which is that something had gone badly 10 11 wrong. As it was, our lives had been devastated, but got no support and we had to fend for ourselves. 12 13 Moreover, even with counselling, we did not know how to 14 navigate our way around the system. We did not 15 understand how the coronial system worked, for example. 16 We had no idea where to start when it came to getting 17 hold of information and answers. We were in no fit 18 state mentally to take on a hospital which had no 19 interest in trying to help us or be honest with us. 20 "We only started to get meaningful information when 21 the police investigation got underway and we gradually 22 learnt more. Until then, we had been completely unaware 23 that there had been an abnormal number of baby deaths at 24 the Countess of Chester Hospital Neonatal Unit in 25 2015-16. The hospital knew, but didn't tell us. Then 58

| 1 | "Suggestions and Recommendations. |
|----|--|
| 2 | "I believe that the Countess of Chester Hospital |
| 3 | knew much more than they have admitted to publicly about |
| 4 | Letby's crimes and I understand from my solicitors that |
| 5 | by the time my children were born there, there were |
| 6 | already serious concerns about Letby. Obviously, we |
| 7 | want to see what evidence comes out about this in the |
| 8 | Inquiry, but clearly, hospital management should have |
| 9 | been much more responsive when concerns were raised, |
| 10 | rather than ignoring or covering up concerns to protect |
| 11 | the reputation of the hospital and the Neonatal Unit. |
| 12 | "The information sharing with us was not adequate. |
| 13 | It was worse than that - it was basically non-existent. |
| 14 | Everything I have since found out about what really |
| 15 | happened I have learned through the police, through the |
| 16 | trial and through my solicitors. Within the NHS, there |
| 17 | is supposed to be a duty of candour. Nobody at the |
| 18 | Countess of Chester Hospital was candid with us. The |
| 19 | duty of candour needs to be made legally enforceable. |
| 20 | "I believe that there should be CCTV in every |
| 21 | Neonatal Unit, so that what happens to babies is |
| 22 | recorded on camera and can be checked. |
| 23 | "I also believe that there should be proper |
| 24 | monitoring of access to medicines, so it can be checked |
| 25 | who has accessed particular items. 60 |

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| 1 | "Finally, there should be clear protocols to | 1 |
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| 2 | provide support (to include full counselling), full | 2 |
| 3 | information and guidance to parents who have been | 3 |
| 4 | bereaved or whose children have been harmed." | 4 |
| 5 | My Lady, that concludes the statement of the Father | 5 |
| 6 | of O&P&R. | 6 |
| 7 | LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: Thank you very much | 7 |
| 8 | indeed, Mr Scorer. | 8 |
| 9 | Father O&P&R, thank you very much for being present | 9 |
| 10 | today online and for providing the statement and | 10 |
| 11 | allowing Mr Scorer to read it on your behalf. I don't | 11 |
| 12 | underestimate for a moment how difficult it has been to | 12 |
| 13 | prepare the statement and then to hear it read again. | 13 |
| 14 | Would you please pass on to Mother O&P&R my thanks | 14 |
| 15 | for what she has done in preparing and providing the | 15 |
| 16 | statement. | 16 |
| 17 | FATHER O&P&R: Of course. | 17 |
| 18 | LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: I completely understand | 18 |
| 19 | why she is not online with you today and I am grateful | 19 |
| 20 | to her for what she has done, as you have, on behalf of | 20 |
| 21 | the Inquiry. | 21 |
| 22 | FATHER O&P&R: Okay, thank you very much. | 22 |
| 23 | LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: Can I just say to you that | 23 |
| 24 | both of you have really explained very vividly what your | 24 |
| 25 | experiences were in the Countess of Chester Hospital in | 25 |
| | 61 | |
| | | |
| 1 | in Part A. | 1 |
| 2 | LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: Thank you very much | 2 |
| 3 | indeed, Ms Langdale. | 3 |
| 4 | We will adjourn now and we will begin evidence | 4 |
| 5 | tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock. Thank you all. | 5 |
| 6 | (11.25 am) | 6 |
| 7 | (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am | 7 |
| 8 | on Thursday, 26 September 2024) | 8 |
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| | 2016 awful experiences as you have described them and |
|---|--|
| | yet thanks to your quick thinking, at a time when you |
| | were devastated, you insisted and managed to achieve |
| | Child R being transferred to Liverpool Women's Hospital, |
| | where he seems to have thrived from the moment he got |
| | there, being skin-to-skin with his mother very early on. |
| | FATHER O&P&R: Yes. We thank our lucky stars for |
| | getting him moved. |
| | LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: Yes, yes. There's no |
|) | question that that made a huge difference to him. |
| | What comes across so well in your statements is |
| 2 | your love for all of your children and I know that you |
| 3 | still live and always will live with the loss of two of |
| ļ | your children, but the love for all of them shines |
| 5 | through in everything that you have done. |
| 6 | Can I also, on a practical note, thank you for the |
| , | suggestions for recommendations that you have made. |
| 3 | They are characteristically thoughtful and ones that are |
|) | already being tested by the corporate witnesses. They |
|) | are being asked what their views are about these very |
| | practical suggestions, so thank you both very much for |
| 2 | making a significant contribution to the Inquiry. Thank |
| 3 | you. |
| ļ | FATHER O&P&R: Thank you. |
| 5 | MS LANGDALE: My Lady, that concludes the evidence 62 |
| | |

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