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Friday, 29 November 2024 1 2 (10.00 am) 3 MR IAN HARVEY (continued) 4 Questions by MS LANGDALE (continued) 5 LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: Ms Langdale. 6 MS LANGDALE: Mr Harvey, do you have your statement 7 with you as well today?

8 A. I do, thank you. 9 Yesterday, in answer to Mr Skelton, you 10 accepted that the RCPCH Review didn't exclude the possibility that Letby had harmed babies; you remember 11

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A. I do.

14 That was made clear to you at the time, wasn't it: that it wasn't going to deal with that question 15 16 about Letby. Shall I take you to the interview you had 17 with the reviewers at INQ0014604, page 1.

We see here the note of your interview with the reviewers and one of the reviewers said at the

21 "We may not be able to explore the detail of the 22 deaths, the correlation of one nurse."

If we go to page 6 -- I don't think that's the right page. It's the one that says "not sure if the review will give you the answers you are's looking for".

1 what was actually said. At no --

> What about -- sorry. Q.

3 A. At no point did any member of the College team 4 come to either I or -- in the course of the meeting 5 I had with Mrs Kelly and the Review Team, nor at the 6 mopping up meeting at the end of the review with the two 7 members of the team, I believe, and Tony Chambers and 8 Alison Kelly, at no point did they indicate that they 9 had considered aborting the review.

Well, let's look at the first comment then, INQ0014604, page 1, do you dispute this was said: "We may not be able to explore the detail of the

deaths, correlation of one nurse, paediatricians see as elephant in the room."

Do you dispute that they said "we may not be able to explore the detail, we may not be able to examine the deaths and explore that level of detail"? It may not have been expressed as clearly as you would have liked it but, if you were listening, that's what they said; do vou agree?

21 I understand that they told us that they may 22 not be able to do a detailed case report, as I believe 23 I said in evidence yesterday. That was unexpected. I appreciate that the Casenote Review wasn't explicit in the Terms of Reference, but I wrongly, as it turns out,

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Can we try please INQ0014605, page 6.

2 It's got a different number, Mr Harvey, and "IC" 3 refers to you at the top. Do you see there the reviewer 4 is saying:

5 "Not sure if the review will give you the answers 6 you are looking for. Considered aborting and starting 7 again but Terms of Reference to be important to get the

9 When they said "not sure it will give you the 10 answers you are looking for", they were clearly, in the context of what I've referred you to earlier, saying, 11 "We can't look at the correlation of a nurse and the 12 deaths, that's not what we do, we are doing a broader 13 review". Do you agree that's what they were flagging up for you at an early stage? 15

16 I don't read that sentence as that actually 17 being said to us because I am clear that, at no point, did the Review Team tell us that they had considered 18 19 aborting the review and starting again. At no time did 20 they explicitly or implicitly suggest that they 21 considered aborting the review.

22 That is what the note says, are you saying 23 someone's written that when it's not the case, or 24 written it later, or what's your thinking about that?

I'm not sure that that is a verbatim report of

assumed that, in commissioning them to review on the back of concerns about increased mortality, it was 2 inherent in that review that they would actually be 4 reviewing the cases that were the cause of the need for 5 the review.

6 Q. Sue Eardley gave evidence to say that she 7 wrote notes pretty verbatim, and this isn't talking 8 about case notes, it says in terms, "not be able to explore the detail of the deaths". The paediatricians 9 10 had raised suspicions about the causes of the deaths. 11 You will have appreciated straightaway that they were 12 not going to tell you what the causes of the deaths were or the detail of the individual deaths; that's what that 13 14 says?

15 They were indicating that they -- and actually the statement says "may not be able", it wasn't 16 definitive. But, on the basis of the conversations that 17 we had with the College, the feeling was that it was 18 still going to be a worthwhile exercise. It was 19 20 an opportunity for them to have conversations with all the members of staff including the paediatricians. 21

22 The Review Team might have thought it was 23 a worthwhile exercise to have a broader canvas but you 24 are spending money and taking time on a review that isn't going to answer the question that you have got in

front of you, that the paediatricians have raised?

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I believe that potentially, at that time, being faced with an increased mortality of unknown origin, it was perfectly reasonable to explore with neonatal experts, both medical and nursing, the full range of potential causes, and I think that was reflected in the Terms of Reference.

- You referred then in your answer to the increase in mortality. Can we please have INQ0010256, page 1. It's the Terms of Reference for this review and, again, we see at bullet point 4 "apparent increase" in mortality being described. It was an increase in mortality; why did you say "apparent increase" in the Terms of Reference?
- "Apparent", as I think I gave in evidence 16 yesterday, was used in terms of, whilst I accepted that the increase -- there was an absolute increase in the number, that we had not subjected it to statistical analysis and, whilst appreciating the significance of each individual death, I described it as "apparent" because it was not proven to be statistically 22 significant. There was no other significance to the use of that word
- 24 You were steering a wide-ranging review, 25 weren't you, in the knowledge that it was never going to

A. It was.

- During that time, there was no proper investigation taking place into Letby and her role in respect of the deaths, was there?
- We were following the process that had been initiated with the College. We were following the process that they had recommended in terms of a further Casenote Review, and I would have to say that the basis of the College report, after they had consulted with the paediatricians, did nothing to raise the level of concern because of the terms that they used in their report.
- 13 Let's look at how you managed the receipt of 14 the report. Doctors Brearey and Jayaram were given one hour to read the draft report in November 2016, weren't 15 16 they?
 - I don't believe that that time limit was Α. imposed. I gave Dr -- and this was on the College's advice, that it should be shared with some of the senior members but that was purely for a fact checking and confirmation, so --
- 22 They could only check facts if they saw the 23 whole report and there were parts of it that they 24 weren't shown, weren't there?
 - On -- the implication from the advice from the 7

be able to exclude the possibility that Letby had harmed 1 2 babies?

3 Α. I was commissioning this review on the basis 4 that we had an unexplained increase in mortality.

5 I believed it would be an opportunity for the

6 paediatricians to discuss. I, at the outset,

7 anticipated and we had prepared all the documentation

for the team to review the individual cases but, having

9 initiated the process, I felt that it was still

10 appropriate and valid to fully explore the full range of 11 potential contributory factors.

12 It wasn't the full range because they couldn't explore the one that the paediatricians had raised: 13

whether a nurse was responsible for causing the deaths. 14

That was the very option they could not review? 15

16 I was not under that impression at the time 17 that this was commissioned and at the time we prepared 18 for the report.

19 Q. Was that because you didn't listen to what was 20 being said to you?

21 Α. I don't believe so, no.

22 You instructed them on 7 July 2016, you

23 received a draft report 18 October 2016 and a final

report 28 November 2016. This was a long period of 24

time, this review?

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College was that the "green text", as they described it,

2 was confidential and not for wider sharing.

3 Well, let's put the green text, so people know 4 what you are saying here. INQ0005273, pages 8 and 9. 5 I take the point in your statement, Mr Harvey, you don't

6 like the use of the word "redacted". What you are

7 saying there is the green text was something they had 8 highlighted as different and you took that out, that's

why you took it out before people saw the report? 9

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On the College advice, yes.

11 You had commissioned the report though, you could share it with who you wanted to, they couldn't 12 13 tell you what to do about that, could they: you are the 14 person paying for it, you are the person who knows who needs to see what within your organisation? 15

16 That -- that is true but, having commissioned that report from a Royal College, having had a team that 17 was a team of experts and that team included a lay 18 member, who was, albeit inactive, but a barrister. 19

20 So what did you draw from the fact that she was described as a barrister, albeit a non-practising 21 22 barrister?

23 Α. From that and her -- the description of her 24 activities with the NMC and NCAS, I took it that what was being presented was reasonable and appropriate

- advice and, in being advised that the green text was not
 for wider sharing, that there was a basis for that that
 I should listen to.
 - Q. So you took it as legal advice, effectively?
 - A. No, I don't -- I didn't take it as legal
- 6 advice but I took it as senior and knowledgeable advice.
 - **Q.** Did you go to people within your own organisation who were knowledgeable, some of your own in-house lawyers, or Mr Cross, and say, "Look, I think everyone needs to see this"?
- A. I didn't put it in those terms, no. It wasshared with Mr Cross.
- 13 If we can see, on 3.12 -- that's the paragraph in green text -- while we are on this page and so 14 everybody is clear, we know there was a confidential 15 16 version that contained everything that we see, there was 17 a disseminated version that removed the green text that we are going to see as we go through and then there was 18 19 a published version. I think the published version was 20 the one that went to the Families, too; is that right?
- 21 A. That that's correct.

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- Q. The published version had some other thingstaken out, such as at the top of this page:
- "However, in June 2016, the deaths of two of the
 three Triplets provoked further concerns and triggered
- 1 have a read of that:
- 2 "Please find attached the draft report for your 3 review. It does provide some fairly strong 4 recommendations so I would be grateful if you and 5 (unclear) could have a first read through yourself and 6 let me know anything that might be sensitive. Once you 7 are happy, perhaps you can share it with a few selected 8 people, including I would guess Ravi, Stephen and 9 Eirian, to check for any obvious inaccuracies."
- 10 Where does that say you can't share parts of the11 report with the Consultants?
- 12 A. It doesn't reference it in that email but I -13 I recall that there was another email that made that
 14 sort of reference
- 15 **Q.** So you think somewhere in all of the documents 16 we will find an email saying that?
- 17 **A.** I -- I believe so.
- 18 **Q.** Is it what you didn't want to do: share the 19 concerns about the nurse that they had flagged up 20 because they flagged up an HR process was necessary 21 immediately, didn't they?
- 22 **A.** No, it wasn't my deliberate intention to -- to 23 withhold that from them.
- Q. That can come down. The final report wasprovided on 28 November 2016. Why did it take until

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1 this review."

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- 2 That was taken out, wasn't it, and so was the
- 3 Appendix 4, which I don't need to go to, the chronology,
- 4 before it was more widely published?
 - A. I would have to accept what you say. I --
- 6 I cannot remember.
- 7 **Q.** If we go to the next page, page 10, we see the 8 other parts that are in green. So you would agree with
- 9 me, that when Drs Brearey and Jayaram saw the report,
- 10 those bits had been taken out?
- 11 **A.** Yes.
- 12 Q. Did you see any reason at all to take those
- 13 bits out from Dr Jayaram and Dr Brearey's reading: they
- 14 knew all about the nurse and what was going on; it was
- 15 their concerns?
- 16 A. Over and above the advice from the -- the
- 17 College, no, I didn't. And I can fully appreciate how
- 18 that would influence how Dr Jayaram and Dr Brearey would
- 19 subsequently review the report because it obviously
- 20 didn't truly reflect the conversations that they had had
- 21 with the College team.
- 22 **Q.** Can we have a look, please, at INQ0003403,
- 23 page 1, and it's the email from Ms Eardley sending the
- 24 draft report. I just want to see where you say she said
- 25 "Don't share the green text with the Consultants", so
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- 1 February 2017 and a leak to The Sunday Times for it to
- 2 finally be published?
- 3 A. To be perfectly honest, I am unable to answer4 that question.
 - Q. Sorry, "to be perfectly honest" ...?
- 6 A. I am unable to answer that question.
- 7 **Q.** Well, you had this report; you were keen to
- 8 get it; it needed to be shared, didn't it?
- A. It did.

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- 10 Q. So why didn't you?
- 11 **A.** Sorry, without reviewing the documentation,
- 12 I -- I -- I can't answer that.
- Q. Well, there's no documents --
- 14 A. I can't recall.
- 15 Q. -- that answer it, it is just the chronology
- 16 of facts. We know that it was leaked to The Sunday
- 17 Times, you were asked about that --
 - A. Yes.
- 19 Q. -- the comments on that, and then -- we will
- 20 come to it later -- there were letters and phone calls
- 21 made to parents and there was a very much on the back
- 22 foot response to what you should be doing with the
- 23 report: why was that; why did you sit on it?
- 24 A. I can only imagine it was because we were
- 25 drawing up a plan of action with regard to how and to

whom we should be sharing it and in what order. What I can't explain is why that took so long.

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Q. Well, what was your thinking about in what order: what order should it have been?

A. Well, the order should have been that it should have been shared with the parents.

Q. So what was troubling you, as soon as you got it in November 2016, about sharing it with the parents?

A. I -- I don't recall that there was anything that was troubling me with regard to sharing it with the parents.

Q. Well, it was troubling you that you couldn't share the bits in green with Drs Jayaram and Brearey, so were you troubled about having to share that with the parents?

A. Until we had completed the full Casenote
Review -- and because of that I don't think that we felt
that we had actually fulfilled the requirement of the
report -- I was uncomfortable with sharing until we were
able to give a much fuller picture.

Q. The report had said, we had it on the screen a moment ago:

"In the light of information shared with the Review
 Team, the RCPCH advised the Trust to follow corporate
 processes in responding to allegations of misconduct by

A. That would not accord with the subsequent emails in which Sue Eardley recommended independent neonatal experts to do the Casenote Review.

Q. I am asking about the first part, about the investigation into Letby, opening an investigation "in responding to allegations of misconduct". The first part, the bit that the Consultants were concerned about, not the case review and further requirements around that.

A. And I don't think that I or any of my
colleagues interpreted that as responding to allegations
of misconduct by Letby.

Q. Can you try and explain that because I'm not sure I understand it at all.

15 A. In retrospect, I should have sought16 clarification on that.

Q. What needed clarifying?

18 A. What needed clarifying was regard to the19 specific allegations of misconduct.

Q. The allegations of misconduct was that they
 suspected her of deliberately harming babies. Go back
 to your 30 June meeting: "Beverley Allitt situation",

23 "Shipman situation", that she was killing babies.

Allegations of misconduct, there isn't a worse one, is

25 there, than being suspected of killing babies?

1 opening an investigation. It was also recommended

a full and independent Casenote Review was required on

3 the deaths, prioritising those that were unexpected."

4 So that report flagged up very clearly a need to

5 respond to allegations of misconduct. That didn't

6 happen, did it; you did not, pursuant to that

7 recommendation, open an investigation into Letby?

8 A. It wasn't explicit in that with regard to the9 misconduct, although --

Q. Because they hadn't described the precisemisconduct: is that what you are saying?

12 **A.** Well, yes, and, by the same token, I would 13 accept that I didn't seek clarification.

14 Q. Well, let's have it back on the screen,

15 INQ0005273, page 10:

16 "In the light of information ..."

17 Do you see that paragraph below the green text?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. "... advise the Trust to follow corporate20 processes in responding to allegations of misconduct by

21 opening an investigation."

22 It wasn't an investigation you could conduct, they

23 couldn't conduct it but the police could conduct it.

24 That was another moment when it should have been obvious

25 that you contacted the police; do you agree?

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1 A. But then if you follow with the recommendation

2 directly underneath, that in the black text it is advice

3 but the recommendation underneath does not actually

4 tally with that, because it doesn't mention any further

5 details about allegations of misconduct. It simply goes

6 on as the recommendation, following on from that

7 paragraph, that there should be a thorough external

8 independent review of --

Q. Of every death because --

10 **A.** Yes

11 Q. -- as they told you at the beginning, they

12 couldn't look at the deaths, they weren't able to do

13 that --

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A. Yes.

15 $\,$ Q. -- they didn't have pathologists, they didn't

16 have the variety of expertise within it and it's not

17 what they do in a service review. So doesn't the next

18 paragraph just say, "Have a thorough external

19 independent review of each death, try and understand

20 what happened"?

21 A. Yes, and that was -- those were the

22 recommendations following on from the paragraph above.

23 It didn't, in any way, in terms of the recommendation of

24 what we should do, be any more specific than we should

25 be doing an external, independent review of each death.

1 **Q.** Let's take that down, please, and can we go to 2 INQ0004341, page 1. This is a Quality Safety and

3 Patient Experience Committee on Monday, 19 September,

4 where you provide a report back on the RCPCH at page 2.

Perhaps we can all take time to read what you say at thetop of page 2 about the NNU.

If we can make it larger, thank you.

You are giving a verbal update and you say:

9 "The external Review Team had not raised any
10 immediate concerns and the Trust was awaiting the final
11 report. The team had been very complimentary about the
12 staff they had met. The College had recommended that
13 Trust commissions a forensic review of the cases that
14 sparked the external in the first place, carried out by
15 two independent paediatricians."

So you refer to the need for a forensic review but you say they hadn't raised any immediate concerns. They had, hadn't they? They had said:

"It is important that the Trust takes immediate steps to formalise the actions you are taking with the nurse."

A. I would draw a distinction in terms of the use of immediate concerns. For most Trusts/hospitals, if an external organisation comes in, for example the CQC, an immediate concern is one where they say there and

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I -- in terms of further investigation, I believe that we associated that with the Casenote Review because that was, as we viewed it, part of the investigation into how the babies had died, whether there were any factors that might be associated.

Q. You weren't prepared to conduct or authorise any investigation, until you had satisfied yourself as Medical Director that you had concrete proof; is that the position?

11 A. I wouldn't go so far as saying "concrete12 proof".

Q. What would you say then?

14 But we were faced with a situation where there was an increase in mortality, which was unexplained. We 15 were faced with a report that had highlighted concerns 16 17 about some areas. We had had the Silver Control review which had highlighted some areas of concern, and we were 18 in a position where there was a series of postmortems 19 20 that had not highlighted any evidence of anything but 21 natural causes.

Q. The postmortems, as you well know by now, were conducted without anyone knowing there was a suspicion or concern about somebody being present at the deaths, and that they were sudden and unexpected. That's really

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then, "You have to do this right now before we leave the
 building. You have to stop this service. You have to
 do this". And in describing immediate concerns there,
 that was what I was capturing.

5 **Q.** Can we look, please, at INQ0003120. If we go over the page, "Action required", at the top. If we can highlight, "It is important the Trust takes immediate steps to formalise the actions you are taking with the nurse":

"Our understanding is an allegation has been made
and a process of investigation needs to be put in place
which sets out nature of the allegation and the process
you will follow."

14 It should have said or might have said "Go to the 15 police", but you are the decision maker here and you 16 have the bigger picture and you had had all of the 17 meetings and emails from Drs Brearey, Jayaram and the 18 other Consultants.

This was a request or a recommendation to take immediate action and, here you are, telling the QSPEC, that they had not raised any immediate concerns. They were concerned that you weren't dealing with one of the most serious allegations that could be made; do you agree?

A. I'm -- I am not convinced that that is

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1 important when assessing what's happened to a baby,

2 isn't it: you need clinicians and pathologists to be

3 speaking about the concerns of the clinicians and for

4 the pathology team to know what those concerns are, when

5 they are looking forensically at what may have occurred;

6 you know that is the case?

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A. I -- I do.

Q. Why didn't you know that then?

A. I would also say that, in the documentation

10 that would be requesting the postmortem and the document

11 that was going to the Coroner who might request

12 a postmortem, there was nothing that those submitting

13 those applications were putting in that led to a more

14 detailed postmortem.

15 Q. That can --

16 **A.** And that would influence how we would view the 17 situation.

18 **Q.** So what was the point of asking for their 19 advice at all because they had told you they couldn't 20 really answer your question. When they had given you 21 this advice, you ignored it anyway because you know 22 better?

A. No, I didn't know better. But we acted ontheir advice in progressing with the Casenote Review.

Q. Let's go to that, if that can come down.

Dr Hawdon gave evidence to the Inquiry, Mr Harvey, and 1 2 she was asked if she was aware there was a particular 3 member of staff that they suspected was harming babies. 4 She said:

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"I now feel misled. I can't say who misled me but I feel misled and, as I have said before, if those details had been made available to me, the process which would have followed would have been very different."

Dr Hawdon feels misled. She didn't know that the Consultants were suspicious about a member of staff and that would have influenced her in both how she conducted her work and what she said subsequently.

Do you take responsibility for Dr Hawdon being misled about both what was required and the information that she was given?

I was responsible for instructing Dr Hawdon. I recall that in the process of a conversation with her I made reference to there having been a member of staff who was associated more commonly.

"Associated"? We have been through this yesterday. "Associated" doesn't communicate suspected of killing babies?

A. Well, I put it in terms of association and I was influenced by the Royal College report and their reference to "gut feeling". The College report having

process we were going through was a reasonable and appropriate route of escalation?

Well, we will come on to the paediatricians and their conversations with you. But let's deal with INQ0003123, page 1. This is where Dr Hawdon raises issues of consent with you. You say.

"Re parental consent: we had informed parents ahead of the review that it was occurring. I had not got a particular template. Whilst I have done a lot of adult Mortality Reviewing, I have no experience in neonates."

12 So tell us what you say you had done in terms of 13 getting informed parental consent ahead of the Hawdon 14 Review?

I was seeking Dr Hawdon's advice with regard A. to the most appropriate communication to -- to do that. 16

Well, you have asked her for a template but you actually assert: we had informed parents ahead of the review. So, from her point of view, you have got the consents.

21 No, I -- all I am implying is that I -- that 22 there was information that a review was going to occur. 23 In asking for a template, I believe I'm indicating that 24 we hadn't, at that point, had informed consent.

> So you agree you hadn't informed any parent 23

not put it any stronger than that, I believe that would 1 2 influence how I would, in turn, speak to Dr Hawdon and 3 commission Dr Hawdon.

4 So you took the impression of the reviewers, who had met people over a shorter period of time than 5 6 you, and you say you rely on gut feeling, as described 7 by them, rather than your own impression of Dr Brearey, who you had spoken to many times about this? 8

9 Given the expertise of the College Reviewers, 10 yes.

11 What expertise, can you expand on that? Q.

My understanding that these were very 12 experienced specialist neonatologists with great 13

experience and knowledge. 14

Because by using the word "association" of one 15 16 member of staff, and sometimes you add, "and there were 17 others there but less frequently", you were minimising,

weren't you, the allegations that had been made when you 18 19 spoke to Dr Hawdon?

20 I'm not clear that, at that point, the 21 allegations were any greater. We had -- in the series 22 of meetings with the paediatricians -- had a number of 23 detailed conversations and, in going through this

process, I think there is documentary evidence to 24

confirm that the paediatricians had felt that the

1 about this at all, at the time of writing that email?

2 I am indicating that we had informed them that 3 the review was occurring.

4 Yes. Just answer this question: had you 5 contacted any parent of the babies that Dr Hawdon 6 reviewed to ask them if their medical notes, their 7 babies' medical notes, could go to Dr Hawdon and the

8 purposes of the review; had you asked any parent at the

9 time of writing the email?

I cannot recall, based on that email. 10 Α.

Don't worry about the email. 11 O.

12 Α.

13 Q. You know now. Had you done that?

14 Α. I don't know, I'm sorry.

15 I'm sorry? Q.

> A. I said, "I don't know, I'm sorry".

17 You didn't, did you? You do know you didn't

do that. You are here to tell truth: you didn't do 18

that? 19

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20 Α. I am fully aware of the oath that I took and 21 I cannot remember.

22 You would remember writing to parents about 23 this review, if you had done so, wouldn't you? How

24 would you have got the information. Just think about

how you would have got the information, who would have

got it for you -- these babies, where their parents 1 2 were -- who would have got that information at this time 3 in September 2016 for you?

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I would almost certainly have delegated this task. But I have no recollection of following that through. If I didn't, then that is a significant error on my part and I'm -- I'm very sorry for that.

I'm not sure what an apology means when you caveat with "if I didn't". We know, and you have seen the documents, after The Sunday Times publish or refer to publishing the report, in that February 2017, there are efforts to contact parents. We don't see any evidence of efforts to contact parents before then. The Inquiry has seen no such evidence.

So, if you did do this, we don't have any documents and only you would remember. But it looks like you didn't, so why not own the fact you didn't do that?

If there is no evidence to that effect, I can only surmise that it didn't, in which case I'm truly sorry that I didn't.

21 That feels much harder than it should be, 22 Mr Harvey, to get that acceptance.

Absolutely not. It is based on the fact that I, many years after the fact, cannot remember.

Well, you apologised at the beginning

1 nurse records are entered on to Meditech, so presumably 2 will need to be printed off one at a time. All entries 3 are under patient care notes. In addition, the

4 reviewers will need to access BadgerNet. Some of the 5 X-rays are also quite important in some of the cases but

6 I am sure you have thought of this already."

7 You hadn't thought about those things already, had 8 vou?

9 A. I had, insofar as I had requested that we pull together all the -- all the documentation that we had 10 11 for each baby to be sent.

The Royal College had suggested that:

"When these further forensic Casenote Reviews were conducted with expertise in neonatology and pathology, it should ideally have case notes, and electronic records should ideally be paginated to facilitate reference and triangulation."

18 What's the important of to facilitate reference and triangulation in a forensic review; what are people 19 20 trying to triangulate when they conduct a forensic 21 review?

22 Presumably to be able to cross-reference the A. 23 timing of events.

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24 So it's really important and Dr Brearey is 25 making it clear to make sure they have all the

yesterday for getting communications with families 1

wrong, and you have had a long time to think about it.

Did you listen to the parents' evidence in this Inquiry? 3

> Α. I did

So you know what they all have said about Q.

6 that?

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Α.

So you have had a chance to think about it. Q.

So are you genuinely saying, "I got that wrong, I didn't 9

10 contact people and I shouldn't have said that to

Dr Hawdon"? Or are you saying, "I don't recollect and, 11

if I didn't, I'm sorry"? 12

13 I am saying that where I am found to have 14 failed in either the type, the quantity, the quality of

any communications, I'm truly sorry. 15 16 Let's go to INQ0103171, page 1. Dr Brearey,

17 despite the fact you don't seem to look to him for his views on a number of occasions when you are not meeting 18

19 with the paediatricians, tries to assist you,

20 20 September, in this email:

21 "Dear lan, I have been thinking about the upcoming 22 Casenote Review. As I have gone through these cases 23 a number of times, I just needed to point out that providing just the case notes to the reviewers will not 24 be enough for them to review the care fully. All the

information, X-rays, X-ray reports, case notes, medical

notes, and ideally you should be having conversations 2

3 with the clinicians who were there, in case the notes

4 don't record everything. That's a forensic review,

5 isn't it?

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6 A. Yes?

7 Q. Proper consultation between clinicians and 8 pathologists?

Α. Yes.

10 Q. Dr Hawdon described getting a box with 11

different case notes in different places, no doubt 12

because people had gone through them many times from what you have said. But no thought given to the queries

14 Dr Brearey raises.

Indeed, when we look at who put them together --15 give me one moment -- I think it came from Annemarie 16

17 Lawrence -- we will check that -- but from a different

team, a Risk Team putting the bundles together. You 18

didn't get assistance, did you, from a doctor or 19

20 somebody who had already (unclear) the notes about how

you needed to put that material together? 21

> Α. No, I didn't.

23 Q. You didn't. The other important issue was 24 which babies were you going to even invite the review

upon. You didn't get their assistance with that either,

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the paediatricians, did you? 1

> A. No.

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3 Q. We know Baby A had died and was a Twin and his 4 sister had also deteriorated and collapsed, and we know

Baby E had died, and he also had a twin, Baby F, and you

5

6 know that O and P were part of triplets. So, at the

time you were asking Dr Hawdon to look at this review

8 the concept must have become clearer that multiple

9 births were being affected two pairs of twins and

10 triplets as well.

Whilst Dr Hawdon was asked to look at Baby A and E, 11 she was not asked to look at babies B and F was she? 12

13 A.

Q. Had she been invited and someone given thought 14

to the fact, well, let's have the twins, in both cases, 15

16 it may have been much more value. Even at that stage,

17 with just a Casenote Review, looking at E and F would

have been much greater value, wouldn't it? 18

19 A. Yes. it would.

> You said yesterday you had gone through the Q.

21 notes and seen the insulin report and where it was. As

22 night follows day, Dr Hawdon would have done, wouldn't

23 she?

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24 A. She would.

> Q. You had also in your Silver Command got

1 that had been identified in the course of Ruth

Millward's earlier review of incident reports and absent

3 incident reports.

4 Can we go now, please, to INQ0058920, page 1.

This is moving forward in time, February 2017, and you

6 write to Dr Subhedar and say:

"As you are probably aware, the RCPCH Review has 7

8 leaked to The Sunday Times. I believe that we have

9 forwarded embargoed copies to Commissioners, regulators

and the network." 10

11 Embargoed copies: do you mean the ones without the

12 green text?

> A. I would imagine so, yes.

14 Yes, so your Commissioners are not aware of

that or your regulators either; might they have been 15

interested to know that? 16

> A. Yes.

That there was a misconduct allegation that

needed investigation, somebody who's commissioning 19

20 services from the hospital might want to know that, on

behalf of the mothers that are going into that hospital 21

22 and having babies; do you agree?

23 A. Yes.

24 So why did they get the embargoes or not that

31

25 information: what were you hiding there Mr Harvey?

different people looking at case notes and reviews and 1

2 yet somehow Baby F wasn't looked at, in your Silver

3 Command exercise.

4 So when you say yesterday it was a collective

failure or the paediatricians didn't spot it, neither 5

6 did your Silver Command exercise, did it?

No, and the Silver Command exercise,

8 I believe, the identification of the notes for review

was carried out by Dr John Gibbs and by -- I believe Ann 9

10 Fisher, the nurse who assisted him in reviewing.

11 If they looked at Baby F, you don't know that

either. It doesn't seem to be very clear. They were 12

looking at babies that were transported out, I think is 13

14 their explanation?

> Α. Yes.

16 Q. It's not clear what the focus was on any

17 review or why various babies were chosen. That's

something that required the police, didn't it, who look 18

19 at all the babies forensically, carefully and get

20 independent expert evidence to do so. That is what this

21 cried out for?

22 At the time, this was primarily about

23 reviewing the babies who died, so they were part of the

24 Jane Hawdon review. I believe that the baby -- the four

babies that she reviewed who had collapsed were those

I don't believe that we were hiding anything

2 at that time. I think that we were going through the

process of trying to get a complete picture of the

4 position. I think that, as I have already alluded to,

5 we were influenced by the nature of the Royal College

6 report and the reference to gut feeling, which

7 underplayed the situation and didn't do anything other

8 than, I think, push us in the direction of trying to get

9 more information.

10 That was your view. Others were entitled to

11 make their own professional assessments on a proper,

full, transparent basis of the information that you had, 12

13 weren't they? You deprived them of that, the

14 Commissioners, the regulators?

And I -- I think as I said yesterday, yes, 15

I should have had a conversation with Specialised

17 Commissioning at an earlier time.

18 When we look, please, at INQ0103192, page 1,

we see Dr Subhedar's response to you, in respect of the 19

20 RCPCH Report and Jane Hawdon's review, and you say you

respected Dr Subhedar, the Inquiry has heard from 21

22 Dr Subhedar. He points out at paragraph 2:

23 "My own interpretation of the 13 deaths included in

24 her review suggests there were four cases in which there

is no clearly identified cause of collapse death, and 25

a further three cases where the cause of the initial 2 collapse leading ultimately to the baby's death remain unexplained."

He then says:

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"I am broadly in agreement with her recommendations, however it should be noted that many of these recommendations are relevant to all NNUs not just Countess of Chester. Additionally I see no specific justification for recommendation 5, on the basis of her review."

That was a recommendation where she said:

12 "Although no death in the series was known, subject to outstanding postmortem reports, to be secondary to undiagnosed pneumothorax or duct-dependent congenital heart disease, consideration should be given to training and checklists in the event of unexpected collapse to consider these."

So he was making the point that the one point where she commented on deaths wasn't relevant to the cohort. so you had got absolutely nothing from that report in respect of the deaths that you were concerned about, or the Consultants had raised concerns about.

- A. I'm sorry, I'm not sure I understand the question.
 - Q. You didn't get any evidence at all from

1 So you didn't do what Dr Hawdon said, did you; you 2 just went to Dr McPartland who you knew already?

- In the first instance, I discussed it with Dr McPartland. She didn't challenge and I made her aware of Dr Hawdon's recommendations.
- You didn't make her aware that you were concerned there were allegations that a nurse had been harming or killing babies, an Allitt or Shipman situation, you did not say that to Dr McPartland at all?
- A. I believe in conversation with Dr McPartland, 10 I did make reference to the fact that our paediatricians 11 had suggested an increased association with one member 12 13 of staff. I also asked her about air embolus, which is 14 something that Dr Jayaram had raised as a potential cause of harm and --15
 - O. You didn't ask her to posit whether that was a cause of harm or death in a case. You sent an email asking about venous froth on a lung, or something, and whether that could be representative of air embolism and as a response.
- 21 No, I did ask her specifically whether she would be confident that she would identify air embolus 22 23 as a cause of death and --
- 24 Did you say "In relation to this baby or this 25 baby", or give her the notes, or did you just throw

Dr Hawdon that undermined the Consultants' allegations 2 or concerns that Letby had been harming and killing babies? 3

4 Δ Nor did we get anything that actually supported those allegations. 5

6 Did Dr Subhedar's letter reassure you when he 7 said that there was nothing or much of what had been said that wasn't relevant to all NNUs, not just the 8 9 Countess of Chester; so your broader canvas was as much 10 relevant to the Countess of Chester as other hospitals?

11 I'm not sure that I would describe it as

"assurance". 12

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Q. Did it take you away?

14 The degree -- the degree of variability within 15 medicine is such that, whilst there can be a lot of 16 commonality, it doesn't take a great deal of difference 17 to produce vastly different results and, at this time, 18 we were obviously proceeding with the -- as Dr Hawdon 19 had suggested, a further review of the pathology with 20 regard to some of the babies.

21 You didn't pursue what Dr Hawdon suggested at 22 all. You went to Dr McPartland to ask her to just go 23 back over the postmortems that had been conducted when they didn't know there was any suspicions or concerns 24 and they required a forensic postmortem.

1 something out generically?

No, that was -- it was a general question.

3 What's the point of that? What's the point of 4 a general question? You are a doctor, you need to know 5 the specifics. You can't just say "When does this 6 happen or when does the other happen".

7 Well, it was posed by Dr Jayaram as 8 a potential, again, it wasn't put in terms of specifics and, at that time, there wasn't a specific. It had been 9 raised as a possible cause of death --10

11 He had raised it as a possible mode of attack for some of the babies in the meetings when you were all 12 discussing concerns. He had said "cannula air 13 14 embolism"?

15 That can be either deliberate or accidental and I was asking Dr McPartland whether she was confident 16 17 that, whichever mechanism, air embolus would be identified at a postmortem, and I had the answer from 18

19 her that they would. 20 She said she had spoken to somebody who conducted the postmortem in the case you were concerned 21 22 about. There was nothing transparent in your question 23 or open about "In relation to this baby, in these 24 circumstances, looking at this", was there? You did

a one line email, she does a one line back and you said

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that satisfied you that that was medically sound in response to inform your thinking about this?

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- 3 **A.** In terms of a general request, with regard to 4 the likelihood of identifying air embolus as a cause of 5 death, ves.
 - **Q.** So with no notice to her at all what you were thinking about, you relied on her in relation to that; is that what you are saying?
- 9 A. No, I am saying that there was -- I would10 accept there was limited notice.
- 11 **Q.** So let's just see, so we are all clear, the 12 emails. Yours is INQ0102010. You say:

"Just one query. The report states a very small air embolism might not be detectable at autopsy. Does that mean that a significant embolism would be evident?"

So "very small embolism" might not be, first of

So "very small embolism" might not be, first of all. So did you think, well, neonates are small, it wouldn't take much of a significant embolism. Why are you asking the question? You are not ...

A. "Very small" would imply that it was not
clinically significant. That's why I was asking about
a significant -- "significant embolism" would imply one
that would be sufficient to cause harm.

24 **Q.** What do you mean the size of the embolism 25 or --

37

embolism. That's really what you were seeking to ask,
and you didn't give her the full picture, did you: you
just did a one liner and now rely on it?

A. No, but that -- I took from that exchange that, had there been a significant air embolism in one of those babies, that they would have actually seen the evidence at the postmortem.

Q. So you are turning into the investigator, you are trying to understand the medicine that's not your area of expertise. You then rely on it and protect Letby from a police investigation. Have you become the judge and jury deciding whether this is made out, whether this allegation is proven, putting the bits together as best you can?

A. No, I'm simply trying to understand theevidence that is being presented to us.

Q. That can come down, please. Well, that wasn't being presented: you were asking for it, you were positively going out through Silver Command directions and then through approaching McPartland and Hawdon, you are going out looking for evidence?

22 **A.** I'm seeking clarification with regard to the 23 facts that were being presented to us.

Q. What's the difference between that and looking
 for evidence? You are looking for evidence of the
 39

A. Yes.

Q. -- the impact, the clinical impact?

A. Well, both size and --

Q. Presumably, the amount of air embolism

5 required in a tiny neonate is different, isn't it, than

6 adults, the patients you were used to working with. It

7 would take a very small amount, wouldn't it?

8 A. This is a question of proportionality and9 "very small", when talking about a neonate would be very

10 different from "very small" with regard to an adult. So

11 that this is purely the proportionality, and hence

12 significant -- a "significant embolism" in a neonate

13 would be completely different from a "significant

14 embolism" in an adult.

Q. Let's see the response, INQ0102011. We haveto enlarge that if we can:

17 "A significant air embolism should be accompanied 18 by froth in the vessels or lungs."

by froth in the vessels or lungs."Dr McPartland gave evidence that her approach would

20 have been very different to that generic question, had

21 you been specific or set out what you were interested in

22 and why. That was an email exchange where you didn't

23 give the other person any of the information they needed

24 to answer the question you say you were seeking to ask:

25 whether these postmortems would have detected air

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deaths around the deaths?

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A. I am -- I am not looking, I am querying whether there would have been evidence or not.

Q. INQ0060264, page 1. This is Dr Hawdon's
report. We don't need to go through it but the metadata
indicates, I think, by 1 March, there's been about eight
versions where you are adding, aren't you, Mr Harvey,
and I just want to be clear that's what's going on.

9 So if we go to page 7, first of all. We see the 10 green and the types, the additions, track changes, 11 I don't need you to comment on these in relation to 12 Child O or generally. But what's happening, you are

adding to this document, at various times, information

14 that is coming in, is that right?

A. I'm using Dr Hawdon's report as a -- the basis
of pulling together all the information that we had had
from the various reviews.

18 **Q.** And you are putting it in one place. So if we 19 go to page 9, you add from Dr McPartland's review,

20 Child O, you have put this section in. It continues

21 throughout, where you are adding various things from

22 notes, it can't simply be from Dr Hawdon herself, it is

23 from other material, isn't it: you are combining bits of

24 information that you get?

25

A. I am and, in doing that, I -- I haven't made

clear the nature of that report. I shouldn't have left
 Dr Hawdon's name on the top of that because I was
 simply, I was using her report as the basis for
 collating all the information together as we were trying
 to understand the whole picture for each baby.

Q. Page 26, you have added various details:
"Letby: Registrar Harkness called and in
tendance."

You are adding stuff from the rota review that's been done as well, presumably? Dr Hawdon said she didn't have the material or details to go through that.

So you know you had had people in the hospital doing that, so you are adding various bits, aren't you, as you go along. Then we go to page 59, and you have moved Child D up -- I think you did that in your version 2 -- following the postmortem review. So you have moved that top to the top.

Very intricate document and then there is something else you prepare separately, it would appear, INQ0062339, page 1. Then you start to move the material around, after the version 8, it seems like you have done

around, after the version 8, it seems like you have donthis for each baby, pulling things together in this way;

23 is that right?

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24 A. Yes

Q. So why are you doing this? That can go down 41

I was looking to try and establish the causes

2 of death. I -- as a doctor, as a clinician, would 3 commonly be faced with those -- those scenarios in terms 4 of obviously, most commonly, natural causes of death and 5 this was, to a large degree, a clinical review. It was 6 the fact that, despite all that, we couldn't come to 7 an answer and these documents were prepared really to 8 try and understand the whole detail that we had regard, 9 with regard to every baby to discuss with the paediatricians, to discuss with Dr Subhedar and, on the 10 back of those conversations, it was apparent that we had 11 12 to speak to the police.

Q. When you say "to discuss with the paediatricians", did you put yourself on a par with the paediatricians and Dr Subhedar when it came to neonates --

A. No.

18 Q. -- because Dr Subhedar sent you a very clear
19 letter which indicated, I suggest, that you should go to
20 the police, as did your own paediatricians' concerns
21 earlier. But you think you need to follow what they are
22 saying, understand if it's right, have discussions with
23 them: why? What's your status in all of this?

24 **A.** I am -- I'm not sure that that is supported by 25 the documentation. There are multiple meetings that

1 now, thank you.

25

A. I believe this came on the back of the ongoing concerns that were being expressed. It was an attempt to draw all the information together to be able to understand, ultimately, where we were going to go next.

This was the prelude after the conversation with the paediatricians, after the conversation with the Coroner and the subsequent meeting with Dr Subhedar and the paediatricians having pulled all this information together, that -- that realisation that we were going to have to go to the police.

Q. This is something that the police would have

13 been doing. You are trying to draw all this material together. You are getting members of your hospital 14 staff to do similar things. We have heard from Sian 15 16 Williams, she's doing rotas, and she says go to the 17 police and you, yourself, are behaving like a detective, pulling it together. Because you are all suspicious and 18 19 you need to understand what's happened and you are the 20 wrong people to be doing it. This should never have 21 been happening.

A. I wouldn't say that I was acting like
a policeman. I wasn't investigating in that way. It
is --

Q. What, you weren't looking for a crime?

indicate that, at various times, the paediatricians were
 accepting and agreeing that the line that we were taking
 was appropriate, and I think we have Dr Jayaram agreeing
 that a College Review was appropriate.

Q. I am going to come to why they may or may not
have agreed with you, Mr Harvey, so can we just confine
ourselves at the moment to how you end up doing these
investigations yourself. You have given your answer:
you didn't think you were behaving like the police?

10 A. I don't think that this was an investigation.11 This was collating all the information that we had.

This was collating all the information that we had.

Q. Can we have on screen, please, INQ0003135, page 1, and this is an email to you from Dr McPartland, and it indicates how little time she was under the impression she needed to give to this review that was happening about the postmortems and she says clearly:

"It's not a full and formal medico-legal review.
That would involve a second report and take about four
hours of work per case."

A forensic review would take many, many more hours
than that. It shows she had nothing like that in her

22 mind, would you agree?

A. Yes.

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24 **Q.** Had no idea what you were really interested 25 in:

"If you require an analysis of this depth, it is probably best performed independently by someone from another centre."

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Why did she say that; what's the importance of it being independent?

- **A.** I suppose so it can be seen to be someone who wasn't involved in the original postmortem.
- Q. She could see that. Why couldn't you see that?
- 10 **A.** That wasn't a suggestion that we needed to 11 undertake that. It was a view, "require".
- Q. In the end, Mr Harvey, both Drs Hawdon and
 McPartland felt they didn't have the full facts and
 misled -- Dr Hawdon said very clearly "misled" and
 Dr McPartland said, had she had the full facts about
 suspicions and concerns, she would have dealt with the

18 You are responsible for them being misled, aren't 19 you?

- I do not believe that they were misled.
- 21 **Q.** So they are wrong: when Dr Hawdon says she was 22 misled, she is wrong about that, is she?
- A. Dr Hawdon has her opinion, based on how we
 know that this ended. I do not believe that I mislead
 either Dr Hawdon or Dr McPartland. I believe that

Q. Do you accept that you and your Executive colleagues, particularly Mr Chambers and Ms Kelly, created an atmosphere of fear --

A. I --

situation differently.

Q. -- fear of speaking up and saying what people thought?

I cannot -- I wouldn't speak on behalf of

8 Mr Chambers or Mrs Kelly. I did not seek to create 9 an atmosphere of fear. That would be completely 10 contrary to how my practice had been up until that time. I have accepted that there were one or two emails that 11 I completely inappropriately worded and that that might 12 13 affect how they may see -- they might be received. 14 Having said that, I did have a number of individual meetings with Dr Jayaram and Dr Brearey, where I tried 15 to explore the concerns. 16

But, ultimately, I accept that it is always going to be the perception of the person on the receiving end and, if they felt that they were intimidated, then that certainly wasn't the intent or the purpose but I would apologise to them for that.

Q. Dr Isaac gave evidence to the Inquiry that she
was going to sign a letter or write a letter with
concerns but didn't because of a culture of fear. It
was more than simply not stating things: people were

1 I commissioned them in good faith, based on the

2 understanding of the situation at that time and, having

3 been influenced by the various things that had been

4 along the way. And I would refer again, in terms of

5 Dr Hawdon, the strength or otherwise of my commissioning

6 was significantly influenced by the way that the Royal

7 College had phrased their recommendations and their8 findings.

9 **Q.** We are going to move on now to the grievance,

10 the doctors and your interaction with them. Before

11 I take you to various documents, Mr Harvey, do you have

12 any reflection or regrets about how the paediatric

13 Consultants were treated by the Executive Team after

14 they had raised concerns and suspicions about Letby?

A. I think I included in my reflections that one
 of the greatest regrets of my career is the breakdown in
 the communication between the paediatricians and the

18 Executives and with me in particular.

19 I recognise how intense and difficult a situation
20 that was. I recognise the strength of feeling they had
21 and the suffering that they had associated with the
22 grievance process, and I can fully understand their
23 anger in terms of the perception of the Royal College

24 report because it didn't reflect what they felt and

recalled that they had reported to the College.

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worried for their careers if they did. They were
worried that their jobs were at stake if they stood up
and said what they thought, and it was a genuine
concern, wasn't it?

A. If that was how they felt then, yes, but I can
think of nothing that was done or said that would have,
certainly from my perspective, threatened their career
or their standing.

It wasn't just Drs Brearey and Jayaram that 9 Q. referred to that. I have said Dr Isaac gave that 10 evidence, and Dr ZA gave evidence that, when she was 11 contributing to the signed letters and the concerns 12 13 around Letby, she had a conversation with her husband 14 about how were they going to pay the mortgage, what would happen if she lost her job. Under your period of 15 tenure as Medical Director, doctors, who had no doubt 16 17 trained and worked hard to become doctors and enjoyed their work with patients, were worried about losing 18 their jobs for raising patient safety concerns; do you 19

20 accept that?
21 A. I accept that I failed in the duty of pastoral

care that I should have offered and, until that time,

23 I feel I had offered to medical colleagues.

22

Q. How had you done that? How had you offered support to any of your medical colleagues?

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- Are we talking about prior or are we talking A. about the paediatricians involved?
- 3 Through the period, I'm talking about any of 4 the ones I've mentioned: the paediatricians, Dr Isaac, any of them. What did you do to go and seek somebody 5 6 out and say "This is difficult, am I making it worse,
- 8 In terms of the paediatricians, I have 9 accepted that I -- I failed in that regard at that 10 particular time.

how could I help?" Anything like that?

- 11 Over a long period of time: this went on for a long period of time. It was a year. 12
- 13 I did have meetings with Dr Brearey and Dr Jayaram. They tapered off. I remember conversations 14 with Dr Jayaram in my office where he was expressing his 15 16 anger at the situation and how he perceived things. 17 I tried to be supportive. I was trying to be supportive 18 in protecting them from the threat of the GMC.
- 19 Well, we will come to the threats from the 20 GMC. But what did you understand they were before we go 21 to documents?
- 22 A. Sorry?

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- 23 Q. What do you understand, who was threatened 24 with the GMC, by whom?
- 25 A. Dr Brearey and Dr Jayaram were threatened with
- 1 retorted jokingly that he had not wanted to spoil his 2 clean sheet."
- 3 Do you remember saying that to Susan Gilby?
- 4 A. I did not say that.
- 5 If we go to some of the other documents of 6 meetings, INQ0006265, page 1, to put this in context, 7 this is a meeting between the Execs, and it's a meeting 8 when there is a "Susan Hodkinson Options Document". For 9 everybody's assistance perhaps we will go to that on the screen as well now, INQ0051682, page 1. 10
- 11 This is an options paper presented at the Executive 12 Team meeting on 8 September and we see at the bottom of 13 the page, in the box on left, Option 4 was:
- 14 "Reintegrate back within the NNU without ITU/HDU 15 duties whilst competencies reviewed."
- 16 I am sure we will have that back in a moment.
- 17 There we are. So this is looking at the options
- managing Letby. We see that is the Option number 4. If 18
- we go back to the paper, the notes of the meeting on 19
- 20 Thursday, the 8th, INQ006265, page 1, we see there that
- Mrs Hodkinson recommends Option 4, so that's getting her 21

- 22 back, and then this note here:
- 23 "Potential deal with Steve."
- 24 What did that refer to? Here he is the lead
- neonatologist, her going back on the ward. That was 25

- the GMC by Letby's father. At no point did I threaten 1
- any of the paediatricians that I would consider or was
- going to report them to the GMC, nor did I have 3
- 4 a conversation with the liaison adviser of the GMC who
- I met on a regular basis that I was even considering 5
- 6 that, although I might have highlighted that there was
- 7 a risk that they could be reported by someone else.
- So you did, as the responsible officer, speak 8 to the GMC about the possibility of the paediatricians 9
- 10 being referred to them, did you?
- 11 I -- I cannot recall but in the regular
- meetings I would highlight potential issues that might 12 be coming to the GMC and, if the meeting with him had 13
- coincided with knowledge of this, then I believe that 14
- I would have highlighted that there was a risk that they 15
- 16 might be contacted by someone, and it wouldn't be me,
- 17 with regard to a complaint.
- 18 The Inquiry has a statement from Susan Gilby,
- 19 who of course took over as Chief Executive. didn't she?
- 20 She says that, when she did, she had a conversation with
- 21 you and you did say to her, she says this:
- 22 "I do clearly recall that almost his parting words,
- 23 I had put away my notes and was standing to leave, were,
- 24 'You need to refer those paediatricians to the GMC'.
- I replied by asking why he had not done so and he
- going to cause problems, wasn't it? So what does
- 2 "potential deal with Steve" refer to?
- 3 Α. I -- I don't know. I have no recollection of
- 4 that conversation.
- 5 You are obviously at the meeting, it's "How do 6 we manage Letby". Your head of HR is saying, "Let's get
- 7 her back into the NNU", and you have got the lead
- 8 neonatologist who's told you very clearly he suspects
- she is harming/killing babies. So you have got 9
- a problem there, haven't you, Mr Harvey: so what was 10
- 11 being discussed about "potential deal with Steve"?
- 12 I, as I have already said, cannot remember the
- 13 conversation around that item. I can only surmise that 14
- this is related to the grievance.
- 15 Options, you are talking about Letby there.
- So what's the deal with Steve in relation to the 16
- 17 grievance?
- 18 I can't tell you. I would imagine only Α.
- 19 Mrs Hodkinson would be able to tell you about that.
- 20 Were you discussing how you might manage to
- get Steve out or think about getting a deal to get him
- 22 to move on or anything like that?
- 23 At no point was I party to a conversation
- 24 about how we would manage out any of the paediatricians
- 25 from the unit.

- Q. Did you know whether other members of the 1
- 2 Executive Team had had those conversations?
- 3 I wasn't aware of any conversations with 4 regard to that, no.
- Well, let's have a look at INQ0015642, 5
- 6 page 48. It's a bit later in time. This is by May
- 7 2017. It's a note of a meeting, Mr Chambers,
- 8 Mrs Hodkinson. We see there:
- 9 "Plan re management: GMC; actions from grievance;
- 10 action plan to manage out; follow up call."
- Dr Brearey, as lead neonatologist, was becoming 11
- a problem, wasn't he, when you all wanted to get Letby 12
- back on the unit? 13
- I didn't see him as a problem. 14 Α.
- 15 Q. Did you know that Mr Chambers and
- 16 Mrs Hodkinson were discussing that?
- 17 A. No.
- 18 Q. Really?
- 19 A. Really, I did not.
- 20 MS LANGDALE: I think that might be a convenient
- 21 moment for a break, my Lady.
- LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: Very well. We will come 22
- 23 back in 11.45.
- 24 (11.26 am)

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25 (A short break)

- 1 those kinds of letters, what she was told?
 - A. Yes.
- Did you at any time think that the grievance 3 Q.
- 4 was about what the doctors had done or said and how they
- 5 had behaved?
- 6 A. That wasn't how I perceived the grievance, no.
- 7 Who were you relying on for information about
- 8 the grievance before it started, around the time it
- 9 started?
- Ultimately, because it involved Letby, the 10
- information I was getting was from HR, so Sue Hodkinson, 11
- and from nursing, so Alison Kelly. 12
 - So at no time did you think, from talking to
- 14 them, that the grievance was about how the doctors had
- behaved or what they had done or said? 15
 - A. That wasn't my perception at the time, no.
- We see your interview for the grievance, 17
- INQ0003156, page 1, and, if we can go to page 2, we see 18
- halfway down, Dr Green asks you: 19
- 20 "In the analysis table, the column showing 'Doctors
- removed', were you aware?" 21
- 22 So everyone understands, there was a table, wasn't
- 23 there, that Eirian Powell had attached to the Thematic
- 24 Review, highlighting the nurses present on duty or on
- the shift before, and then another column had been added 25

(11.44)

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- 2 MS LANGDALE: Mr Harvey, we were examining or
- 3 moving on to the treatment of the Consultants. The
- grievance process: what did you understand the grievance 4
- 5 was about at the time?
- 6 My understanding was that the grievance was 7 about the way Letby had been managed with regard to
- being taken off the unit. 8
- 9 Was it about what she was told about why she
- 10 was moved off the unit or what she had allegedly done:
- what was it, as far as you were concerned? 11
 - As far as I was -- as far as I understood, it
- was with regard to how the -- the Trust had managed her 13
- off the unit, with the information that she was given 14
- with regard to why she had been moved. 15
- 16 Had the Trust been open with her or
- 17 transparent about why she had been moved, as far as you
- 18 were aware?
- 19 Α. As I understood it, the basis of the grievance
- 20 was that she -- she hadn't been.
- 21 Did you know at the time how the letters had
- 22 gone out to her about how she was being moved off the
- 23 unit?

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- 24 Α. I wasn't aware of those, no.
- 25 But you understood the grievance was about

- 1 to that: which doctors were --
 - Δ Yes
 - Q. -- around at the time?
- 4 So when you were asked, "The column showing
- 5 'Doctors removed', were you aware", you say, "I wasn't
- 6 aware of that", because, as far as you were concerned,
- 7 you had seen both, had you, whether doctors and nurses
- 8 were there or what?
- At this -- at -- currently today, I'm unsure 9
- but I -- given that this was a timely comment, I can 10
- only stand by the comment I made there. 11
- Yes. So were you aware the doctors were 12
- removed, and you say, "I wasn't aware of that". So 13
- 14 whatever he was referring to wasn't something -- did you
- understand the question? 15
- 16 Well, only insofar as he was asking if I had
- 17 known that a column with the doctors had been removed.
- 18 You then say:
- "There's been a number of behaviours on the ward 19
- 20 that do not reflect too well. I had to go and speak to
- RJ that some of the trainees had been making reference 21
- 22 to 'angel of death' but no specific person was named.
- 23 There was behaviour in clinic, it's being heard talking about killing babies on the unit. Had to speak to Ravi

about comments and killing babies. This was not denied

and RJ did accept that it was inappropriate." 1

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So you raise it. Why did you raise that in this context, is my first question, and the second is: what were you telling him?

- I think this was an answer, probably not just in relation to that one question, but following on from the two above, as well, in explaining the situation with regard to Letby on the unit.
- What behaviours were you describing, what did 10 you go and speak to Ravi Jayaram about?
- I had spoken to Dr Jayaram about a comment 11 that had been fed to me by a member of the nursing staff 12 about the trainees describing the angel of death. 13
 - Who told you that? Q.
- 15 I cannot remember who that was. All I know is A. 16 it was one of the senior nurses.
- 17 So Karen Rees, Eirian Powell, Alison Kelly, they are your options? 18
- 19 A. Quite possibly, yes.
- 20 Q. Well, which one?
- 21 Α. I don't know. I can't remember.
- 22 Q. When did she say to you a trainee had spoken
- 23 about "angel of death"?
- 24 I am unable to remember precisely when that 25 was said either.

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1 there isn't anything to find."

Not killing babies, Nurse T, sorry. That's the evidence we have heard. Did you bother to find out if anybody had heard that directly or you just went to say to Dr Jayaram, "Is that your evidence? Have you said this?", and he said, "Sorry about that, it's inappropriate"?

8 A. I -- my course of action was to approach 9 Dr Jayaram to see whether what had been reported was --10 was correct.

Q. You see, you don't say here it was Dr Jayaram. 11 12 You say:

13 "There was behaviour in clinic, it being heard 14

talking about killing babies on the unit." You don't say it was Dr Jayaram who was heard to

15 say that. You simply say, "I had to speak to him about 16 17 comments that it was appropriate", but you are saying you knew straight at the time it was supposed to be 18 19 being said about him?

20 That was how it had been reported to me and that was the reason that I -- I spoke to him. I can't 21 22 speak for how those notes record what I actually said in 23 that interview.

24 But in terms of your reasoning, so one of the senior nurses tell you that's what he said, or been 25 59

Q. So no specific person named?

2 Α. No, because that was who said that or who 3 reported that to me, sorry.

- 4 So did you have any name to provide about those comments "killing babies" or "angel of death"? 5
- 6 With regard to the second, that was with 7 regard to me being told that Dr Jayaram had been heard to make that statement in clinic. 8
- 9 You accepted that to be true, presumably, 10 because you are repeating it here; is that right?
- 11 I was accepting that to be true on the basis that I went to have a conversation with Dr Jayaram about 12 it and he confirmed that that comment had been made by 13 him and had accepted, as I put in that note, that it was 14

15 inappropriate.

16 Q. You say that Dr Jayaram said he had said 17 "She's killing babies"?

18 No, I didn't say that there was a reference to 19 a specific person. The comment was that the -- there 20 was someone killing babies on the unit.

21 We have heard directly from the person that 22 was attributed to by Eirian Powell, who says that, in 23 fact, what she had heard was words to the effect of 24 Dr Jayaram saying about the review:

25 "Just because it didn't find anything, doesn't mean

1 heard to say by some other nurse, and you go and say to 2 him, "Don't say that"?

3 No. The approach was, in the first instance,

4 to ask if that was what had been said, was that correct

5 as it had been reported? Not to go and directly

6 admonish him for something that had been reported 7 because I am very well aware that things can be

8 misunderstood things can be misheard.

So my approach would have been to speak to him to 9 say that I had heard about this but was that -- my first 10 approach would be, "Is this correct?" 11

12 Ravi Jayaram did have suspicions that someone 13 was killing babies, didn't he?

14 Α. Ravi Jayaram had concerns about the increase

15 in mortality. 16 Q. Had suspicions and concerns -- we have been

through this -- suspicions and concerns, talking about 17 methods of attack, that babies were being deliberately 18 harmed and, after O and P, that was loud and clear in 19

20 the meeting in June. So he had those suspicions and, in

effect, you have a conversation that it's inappropriate

22 to be talking about the very safeguarding concern they 23 are all worried about.

24 I believe that the conversation was with regard to it being inappropriate to be saying it in 25

a public place. 1

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- 2 Was it ever suggested to you it was in 3 a public place, talking to another member of staff in 4 a clinic?
 - A.
- 6 Q. It doesn't mean it is overheard, does it, suggested? 7
- 8 A. If it's in a clinic, it has potential to be 9 overheard
- 10 Q. Yes, but it has not been stated that it has, but speaking to go a colleague about safeguarding 11 concerns is a totally valid thing to do, isn't it? 12
 - In those circumstances yes. But --A.
 - Q. Well, that was the circumstance.
- A. 15 But, well, that wasn't as described to me when 16 I spoke to Dr Jayaram.
- 17 Q. You, at the top of this page, make a comment, 18 Mr Harvey:
- 19 "There are issues with nursing with regards to 20 investigations compared to medical staffing. We have measures specifically supported by the GMC and NCAS, if 21 22 there are doubts speak to them. RC then would manage 23 resistance from the Consultants. If I were a doctor,
- then there would be a period of supervised practice and 25 development but there was a block on that as the

1 A.

- Q. -- in the way the Consultants think about nurses?
- 4 I don't believe that that's what I was doing 5 and, in fact, directly after that, it all, I also say 6 that the Executives had considered should we go to the 7 police.
 - You have told us a moment ago what you thought this grievance was about. Why is it that you are talking at all about the Consultants and how they thought there was a difference, you say, between how
- doctors and nurses were treated and not recognising it; 12 13 why is that even a feature in this interview?
- 14 Simply because that was my interpretation of the answers that were going with the questions that were 15 16 put to me.
- 17 So the questions that were put to you were getting you to criticise the doctors, and that's what 18 you comfortably, it would appear, do, don't you? Look 19 20 at your answers.
- 21 I wasn't specifically aiming to criticise the Α. 22 doctors in the course of this.
- 23 Did you appreciate your comments were relied 24 upon to do that very fact at the end of it?

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25 I would accept that they -- they could be

Consultants were not prepared to have the nurse on the 1

unit and, if we do, they said the police would be

called." 3

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4 You are trying to make that their concerns about her coming back on the unit an issue between doctors and 5 6 nurses, that they are treated differently; do you see

7 the top paragraph?

support that as an option.

A. I do.

> Q. Why are you saying that?

10 I am saying that because that was my perception at the time. I would accept that I have put 11 in a factual inaccuracy in saying there was a block by 12 the Consultants. I did not at the time understand that, 13 in fact, there couldn't be supervised practice because the nursing staff didn't have the numbers to be able to 15

17 Q. If you go to the page before, you are telling 18 him as well:

19 "There was a threat to go to the police from the 20 Consultants. Execs considered do we go to the police?"

21 You are describing these Consultants as, in some 22 way, high-handed doctors, Consultants, who think they 23 are different from nurses in processes and procedures.

You are creating an impression, aren't you, that there 24

is a chasm between the Consultants and the nurses --

1 interpreted in that way.

2 You accept that you criticised the Consultants 3 and that was used against them; is that what you accept?

4 I accept that there was comments with regard 5 to behaviour. I, again, would simply say that the 6 sentence that's highlighted with regard to the threat to 7 go to the police is also associated with the fact that 8 we also, as Executives, had considered should we go to 9 the police.

10 Q. Look at the next question on page 2 from 11 Dr Green:

"Did you hear about Jim McCormack telling Eirian 12 13 Powell she was harbouring a murderer.

14 "No, I hadn't heard that."

What did you think you were being asked that for? 15

What's the relevance of that to the issue about how 16

17 Letby had been managed?

I -- the only interpretation of that is that 18 it's extending into the medical staff. 19

20 The grave irony, of course, about that comment, upon the focus, of which was being used here 21 22 against the Consultants, is that it was true: she was in 23 the hospital and you were harbouring a murderer. She

wasn't being investigated by the police. But this

comment is being used in a different context, isn't it,

to seek to invite criticism of the Consultants, 1 2 including Mr McCormack now; do you agree?

- It could be interpreted that way, yes.
- It's the only way, isn't it, Mr Harvey? O.
- I gave you a chance, and you took it fully, to explain 5
 - what you thought this grievance was about and here you
- 6 7 are, on page 2, criticising the attitudes of Consultants
- 8 towards the nurses and being asked about comments and
- 9 whether they are inappropriate when, in fact -- in
- 10 fact -- whether they are inappropriate or not, they have
- turned out to be true: she was killing babies and the 11
- hospital was harbouring a murderer? 12
- 13 We have the advantage of hindsight there,
- obviously. But --14

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- Q. At the time you knew the suspicion.
- 16 A. -- the context of my answer it that question
- 17 was with regard to the earlier ones about the issue of
- Letby being taken off the unit. 18
- 19 Have you heard of the concept, Mr Harvey, of
- 20 bullying up? Rather than Consultants being seen to
- 21 bully nurses, bullying up; that different groups in the
- 22 hierarchy can come together and bully up? So the
- 23 Consultants, one is always ready to believe, are
- arrogant, aloof, very aware of their own education; 24
- 25 that's a popular conception. And nurses are unseen or
- 1 You go straight into that, not that they didn't 2 want her there with supervised practice and you didn't add "We have got CCTV as well", did you, "We are 3 4 thinking about CCTV"; you didn't give him the full 5 picture of that?
 - A. No, I didn't and I've already accepted that I was factually incorrect in making the statement about them blocking because I am now aware that, in fact, the reason there wasn't supervised practice was insufficient staff numbers to be able to support that as an action.
 - It was because they thought she might do more harm to babies. That's why they kept coming back to you, "We think she's causing harm to babies". O and P had died; they should never have died after that 11 May meeting, Mr Harvey, in 2016, when she could have been off the ward and referred to the police then.
 - A. Sorry, when?
- 18 Q. 11 May 2016, when you had that meeting
- 19 together?
- 20 A. I would not accept that, as a result of the
- 11 May meeting and the conversations that we had and the 21
- 22 approach that Dr Brearey and the nursing staff had, that
- there was anything that would have supported any action. 24 Dr Brearey was entirely supportive of the action that
- came out of that meeting and I would highlight that one 25

- domestic staff. We have heard from Mrs Hodkinson, she
- 2 would go along the hospital in roles where she might be
- unseen. They are very traditional characterisations of 3
- 4 hierarchies, aren't they, and they are not always true,
- 5
- 6 Sometimes it can be the other way round, bullying 7 up: people have more power in different places in the
- hierarchy. Did you ever stop and think that the group 8
- of senior nurses advising you had their own issues, 9
- 10 potentially, about the relationships between Consultants
- and nurses and, in fact, on the neonatal unit, until the 11
- issue of Letby arose, it was harmonious, in that 12
- respect? You hadn't heard anything about the issues 13
- between doctors and nurses, you said, before this issue. 14
- So why are you raising that now? 15
- 16 Because it seemed pertinent to the questions
- 17 that were being asked and pertinent to the issues around
- 18 Letby's removal.

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- They say:
- 20 "We felt redeployment was the best course of
- 21 action. How did you agree the course of action?"
- 22 Then you are effectively saying:
 - "The Consultants wanted to block it because they
- 24 might be able to have supervised practice, they didn't
- want a nurse to have that. It wasn't fair."

- 1 of the actions was the reporting of any further
- 2 collapses or incidents, and I believe that that applied
- 3 to Baby N, but that wasn't escalated or reported.
- 4 Let's go to page 3 of the grievance. You do 5 refer, at the end of page 2, to:
- 6 "Got security to review. Lack of security re
- 7 getting in and out of the unit became apparent."
- 8 Then, at the top of page 3, calling the police, you 9 say:
- 10 "They would have left a bomb site if they had come
- 11 in. More and more sure it was right not to call the
- police as things have progressed." 12
 - This is you in November:
- 14 "Have you had any previous cases like this?
- 15 "Not personally. Paediatrics was happy to quote
- Beverley Allitt but equally there was the nurse in 16
- 17 Stockport who was ultimately not responsible for
- 18 anything."

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- 19 "Paediatrics was happy to quote Beverley Allitt",
- 20 are you belittling the way they expressed their concerns
- or minimising them in this interview? 21
- 22 A.
- 23 Q. "Happy to quote", I say that because of "happy
- 24 to quote". Not that they were very worried, they are
- 25 concerned, they think someone is killing babies but

- 1 "happy to quote", as though in some way it's a bland2 overview, cheap comparison?
- 3 **A.** No, I don't -- I don't think there's any 4 interpretation into that.
- Q. Did you do anything or say anything in this
 grievance interview to Dr Green, who you knew was
 investigating it, to stop the questioning around the
- 8 behaviour of the Consultants or the attitude of the
 9 Consultants, and say to him -- you are the Medical
- 10 Director, there to support medical staff -- say to him:
- "I didn't understand this was part of thisprocess."
- 13 Or did you just answer the questions?
 - A. I, with regret, just answered the questions.
 - Q. That can come down, please. INQ0002884,
- 16 page 1. This is an email to you included on it, from
- 17 Hayley Cooper, Letby's representative:
- 18 "I am emailing yet again."
- 19 Did she often directly email you?
- 20 **A.** No

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- 21 Q. How many did you get directly from Letby or
- 22 her representative, roughly?
- 23 A. Very few.
- 24 Q. Was it common in other areas of the hospital,
- 25 where there were grievances being raised or concerns, to
- 1 had with a nurse was to the effect that a ninth
- 2 Consultant being appointed was necessary if the
- 3 redesignation was to be reversed. That is what
- 4 Dr Brearey says he spoke about.
- You receive this on 23 November and call Dr Brearey
 in for a meeting on 24 November: why?
- 7 A. It was to have a conversation with him with
- 8 regard to what was alleged in this email. I believe
- 9 that this relates to the Royal College review that he,
- 10 Dr Jayaram and, I believe, Ann Fisher had reviewed and
- 11 I think it was on College advice that that was, in the
- 12 first instance, a confidential review and I think I had
- 13 advised them that, at that point, it wasn't to be
- 14 shared.
- Q. Can I just go back to that, Mr Harvey and makeit very clear. You commissioned that review?
- 17 **A.** Yes.
- 18 Q. You were not required to be secretive or cover
- 19 it up. You could share it with who you chose having
- 20 commissioned it, provided you and your lawyers were
- 21 satisfied that you had fulfilled your obligations around
- 22 how certain aspects of personal data were shared; do you

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- 23 understand that: it was your choice?
- 24 A. I -- I understand that now. But at the time,
- 25 it was my interpretation that the Royal College knew

- 1 get emails directly from the member of staff affected or
- 2 their representative?
 - A. No.

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- Q. So this was the only time you got direct
- 5 emails from an RCN rep or, as we will move on to, the
- 6 person who was complaining?
 - A. This is the only time that I can recall.
 - Q. So you get an email.
- 9 "Yesterday, some of her colleagues informed her
- 10 that a Consultant, SB, is going around the NNU and
- 11 informing staff that he has seen the external reports,
- 12 and I quote 'appears to be bragging about it stating the
- 13 report has cleared all the medical team as expected and
- 14 he also informed the staff that he had been given the
- 15 funding for a new Consultant post because of it'. On
- 16 behalf of my member, we would like to know why this is
- 17 happening, as we were given assurances not two weeks ago
- 18 that a confidential meeting would take place with the
- 19 medical director and key people regarding the draft
- 20 report, and it would be kept confidential until the
- 21 report was finalised and nothing would be discussed
- 22 yet."

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- 23 So this is the RCPCH Report and Dr Brearey has
- 24 given evidence that he spoke to Ruth Millward, the Head
- of Risk and Patient Safety, and the only conversation he

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- what they were doing and what they were talking about
- 2 and that they would follow their instructions.
- 3 Q. So stop saying that you were prevented from
- 4 circulating that report. You could have done what you
- 5 wanted with it, with the members of staff and the
- 6 Consultants. Nothing stopped you doing that. But it
- 7 suited you to be secretive about it because the green
- 8 bits that we have gone to flagged up the Consultants'
- 9 suspicions and suggested that Letby needed to be
- 10 investigated as a matter of urgency?
 - A. That is absolutely not the case.
- 12 Q. Well, we have gone to the documents.
- 13 A. As I have stated I was reliant on the
- 14 expertise of the advice of the Royal College.
- 15 I accepted what they said on face value because it
- 16 appeared to be backed up by appropriate expertise and
- 17 knowledge and I took that as what was normal practice.
- 18 Q. When you had Dr Brearey in your office on the
- 19 24th, what did he tell you about the conversations he
- 20 had had and did you accept what he said were the
- 21 conversations he had had?
- 22 A. I -- I believe I met him together with
- 23 Mrs Hodkinson. I can't remember from memory what the
- 24 conversation was.
 - Q. Why did you have Mrs Hodkinson there?

Because I believe that, actually, it was 1 A. 2 Mrs Hodkinson who had advised that we needed to meet 3 with him.

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O. So if we go to INQ0003094, we see your letter in response, subsequent to that meeting. Mrs Hodkinson gave evidence that you were heavy handed in your approach or this letter was heavy handed; do you agree? Particularly if we highlight paragraph 3, and the last two sentences of the one above?

10 A. I -- I accept that that could be read as heavy handed, yes. 11

Q. "The final report, will be shared with the 12 13 clinical teams as well as others but this will be done in a controlled way, by which I mean as an order of 14 priority and sharing the information whilst ensuring 15 16 appropriate support for those with whom it is being shared."

17 18 Your order of priority was Executives first, to 19 look at the documents, the RCPCH Report: two Consultants 20 for a limited period of time thereafter; and the full report to Consultants, many months after. That was your 21 22 controlled way, wasn't it?

23 That wasn't what I was implying at that point, no. It was simply making sure that we had 24 an appropriate order of priority. It was important that

1 your presence on the NNU and the collapsed deaths of 2 babies. I acknowledge that these concerns were raised 3 through the appropriate channels, in line with both the 4 Trust's Speak Out Safely policy and the guidance 5 proffered by the GMC." 6 Was that accurate?

7 I'm not sure about the reference to guidance 8 proffered by the GMC because I did not have any 9 conversation with the GMC.

This, of course, the comments about in line 10 with Trust Speak Out Safely policy, relied on comments 11 you had made, wasn't it? Did you think that the Trust's 12 Speak Out Safely policy had been followed; is that what 13 14 you were trying to suggest?

15 I -- I don't think it had been followed in A. a timely fashion. 16

But do you think it was followed at all? Q.

I think eventually it was, yes. A.

So do you think that was a justified Q.

20 conclusion:

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"I acknowledge these concerns were raised through 21 22 the appropriate channels in line with the Trust's Speak 23 Out Safely policy."

In terms of the early time, no, it's not.

So that's not an accurate conclusion either? 75

those staff who were vested in this had the opportunity 1

2 to see it at the same time. But also mindful that it

was a matter of importance that it was shared with the 3 4

families.

5 So the staff who were vested in it first, when 6 should they have all seen it?

7 They should have seen it once we had corrected factual -- corrected any factual inaccuracies and 8 9 received the final version from the College.

That can come down. Can we have, please, the 10 grievance finding, INQ0003611, page 2. If we look at 11 the top, paragraph 4, a finding: 12

13 "Whilst I recognise the board found themselves in 14 a difficult position, I conclude the Trust has not been as open and honest with you [that is Letby] as they 15

16 could be in relation to the circumstances."

17 So criticism for how the Executives and HR managed 18 communications with her, yes?

19 Α. Yes.

20 Q. Justified?

21 Yes. Α.

22 Q. Then we see at paragraph 7:

23 "No party refutes that concerns were raised by the

24 Consultants, in particular Stephen Brearey, to the

Executive Team around a perceived commonality between

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1 Α. I don't believe it is.

> O What about:

3 "I do not find the Consultants' concerns when 4 reiterated to the Executive Team were clear, honest and 5 objective."

6 Was that justified?

I would dispute the use of the word "honest".

O. Did you see this at the time?

9 Α.

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10 Q. When you first saw it, did you think, "How come they are commenting on the Consultants' interaction 11

with the Executives"? 12

13 Α. To be honest, I'm unable to remember when or, 14 in fact, if I ever saw the final mediation report.

Do you agree, leaving the grievance now, you 15 contributed to criticisms unjustifiably of the 16

17 Consultants in the context of the grievance process?

18

That's where your contributions ended up: adding to the

criticisms of them, that they had made various remarks, 19

20 including Jim McCormack, that they shouldn't have made,

and somehow, at the end of that grievance process, 21

22 Consultants were being asked to apologise to Letby?

23 I wasn't the one who made any reference to Jim 24 McCormack, I was asked about that and said that I didn't

know about it. That must have come from somewhere else.

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- 1 I accept that I made reference with regard to some of
- 2 the reasons why Letby had been removed, with regard to
- 3 the behaviour. But it wasn't my specific desire or aim
- 4 to aim anything at the paediatricians, be they trainees
- 5 or the Consultants?
- 6 Q. Your comments about Dr Jayaram directly led to
- 7 him being asked to make an apology to Lucy Letby, didn't
- 8 they?
- 9 A. I can't say whether it was my comments alone
- 10 that solely led to that.
- 11 Q. You are the Medical Director, you have gone
- 12 and said, "I have been to speak to him, he's
- 13 acknowledged it's inappropriate", as though he had
- 14 acknowledged something about himself was inappropriate.
- 15 That was used against Dr Jayaram and you must have known
- 16 it was going to be?
- 17 A. I would not have known that it was going to be
- 18 used against him.
- 19 Q. Were you unconcerned then whether it would be
- 20 used against him because you chose to say it in the
- 21 context of a grievance process?
- 22 A. It seemed timely with regard to the questions
- 23 that were being asked to feed that in. I have no
- 24 knowledge with regard to what other contributors to the
- 25 mediation or to the grievance might have said that might
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- 1 Q. Well, it's important when you are a leader,
- 2 isn't it, to understand perspective, where people might
- 3 be coming from. To understand -- we have heard Eirian
- 4 Powell was emotional, forceful, describing her support
- 5 for Letby. But we know she managed a ward where Letby
- 6 worked. So it's not surprising, perhaps, that she had
- 7 her own relationship that was in her mind, her own
- 8 professional relationship at the time that may have
- 9 influenced her thinking; do you agree?
- 10 **A.** Yes
- 11 Q. You, meanwhile, as the Medical Director,
- 12 hadn't worked with Letby; did you spend any time with
- 13 Letby, generally?
- 14 **A.** No.

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- 15 Q. So you were distant from that and, as
- 16 a leader, can see the perspectives people might bring to
- 17 a situation, can't you?
 - A. I accept that.
- 19 Q. So did you realise that your senior nurses
- 20 Karen Rees, Eirian Powell, certainly, had been meeting
- 21 with Letby a lot, or had worked, in Eirian Powell's
- 22 case, with Letby a lot and that might make this very
- 23 difficult for them, for a number of reasons; did you
- 24 think about that?
- 25 A. Well, no, because I wasn't aware of it.

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- 1 have reinforced that. So I -- I can't say that it was
- 2 mine -- my evidence alone.
- 3 I accept, as Medical Director, that might carry
- 4 a degree of weight, but that was never my intention.
 - Q. Can we go, please, to INQ0003463, page 1.
- 6 This is a meeting with Mr and Mrs Letby, Letby, Hayley
- 7 Cooper, the representative, Karen Rees; were you aware
- 8 they were meeting weekly?
 - A. I'm sorry?
- 10 Q. Were you aware there were weekly meetings
- 11 taking place between Karen Rees, as a senior nurse,
- 12 Letby, not always her parents, but there were weekly
- 13 meetings with Letby?
- 14 A. I wasn't.
 - Q. Were you aware how close Karen Rees and Hayley
- 16 Griffiths had become to Letby's position --
- 17 A. I wasn't.
- 18 Q. -- and as friends, if they believed that at
- 19 the time?
- 20 **A.** No
- 21 Q. Should you have been alert to that; should you
- 22 have thought "Who's getting involved with who here"?
- A. To be honest, I'm not sure that is a question
- 24 I can answer. I don't know whether I -- I should have
- 25 known or not.

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- Q. You were aware Eirian Powell managed her and
- 2 was going to have worked with her, weren't you?
- 3 A. Ye
- 4 Q. Let's have a look at INQ0003463, page 3. This
- 5 is where you're meeting on 22 December with Letby's
- 6 parents and you say:
- 7 "Concerns were raised [this is about the
- 8 Consultants]. We undertook a couple of reviews,
- 9 subsequently came together in May, after two further
- 10 baby deaths. We support any member of staff in raising
- 11 a concern. We accept the behaviours were not
- 12 appropriate. We set actions to undertake an external
- 13 review and close to a conclusion. There was a panel of
- 14 four of them [this is the RCPCH] who spent three days
- 15 here. They compiled their report quicker than normal.
- 16 They then came out for a secondary review, taken to
- 17 a further level. A small component needs to be
- 19 shared the completed review."
- Over the page, at page 5, you are asked by
- 21 Mr Letby:

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- 22 "Have you spoken to Ravi?"
- 23 You say:
- 24 "It's not appropriate behaviour. Not had it
- 25 reported to me subsequently. SH [Mrs Hodkinson] and

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completed early in the New Year, that's why we have not

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I met with Dr Brearey. Will be followed up with 1 2 documentation to all of them."

That's what you choose to say to him. You are not happy with their behaviours. They have raised concerns and suspicions. You know you are not being, or your hospital isn't being, honest and open with them about

the level of suspicion and then here you are saying

8 "It's not appropriate behaviour", and criticising the

9 Consultants to Letby: why?

I would simply say that this was a difficult meeting. I was, I suppose, simply reporting the comments that had been referenced in the grievance. I can only say that I was influenced by being in a meeting that I hadn't anticipated with Letby and her

14 15 parents.

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Q. Who asked you to be in that meeting?

A. I'm not sure whether it was Tony Chambers or Sue Hodkinson.

Q. Can we go to INQ00 --

19 20 LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: Sorry, Ms Langdale, just before we move, could we have a look at page 5, which 21 22 was the page number, I think, that you were looking at, 23 wasn't it, whereas we have got page 4 on there. 24 Thank you. We could follow it perfectly but it

just wasn't in front of us.

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1 traced. I am interested to know who tabled this and who 2 was present as they are potentially professionals that 3 I will be working with in the future and feel it is only 4 fair for me to know. I believe the meeting took place 5 shortly after the deaths of the two Triplets and 6 involved senior and junior doctors. I would appreciate 7 any help you can offer."

You wouldn't necessarily have known this, Mr Harvey, but we know, of course, that Letby was texting and messaging Dr U for information about babies on the unit. You, as the Medical Director, are now being emailed and asked for information of people

13 discussing concerns about her. What do you make of 14 that: has that happened before?

15 It's not happened before and I regarded it -and regard it -- as a completely inappropriate email. 16

What did you do with it?

I cannot remember. I don't even remember. It 18 was only when this was made available as part of the 19 20 Inquiry that I -- I saw it. I have not had any response made available to me. I could only imagine, having 21 22 received this, that I would have discussed it either 23

with Alison Kelly or with Sue Hodkinson. 24 We haven't seen a reply anywhere, Mr Harvey, 25

as it sounds like you have. You have just seen the 83

1 MS LANGDALE: Sorry.

LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: No, that's --

3 MS LANGDALE: So "Have you spoken to Ravi", and

4 there is the answer.

5 "Not appropriate behaviour, nor had it been 6 reported to me subsequently and you met with the other

7 doctors."

8 So you are telling them your processes and what you

9 were doing.

10 Α. Yes

If we go now to INQ0057499, page 1.

12 "Dear lan ..."

13 So we now have Ms Letby emailing the Medical

14 Director:

15 "Dear Ian ..."

16 Read the content of the email before I ask

17 a question. She says:

18 "There is something that has been playing on my 19 mind since receipt of my grievance statements that I am 20 wondering if you could help me with. Karen Rees was

21 informed that a junior doctor openly tabled a meeting,

22 when discussing the increased mortality rates and my

23 possible connection/involvement with this. When Karen

24 asked, the details of the doctor in the meeting were not

provided. Is there an agenda or minutes which could be

email for a second time. This email is a standalone, as 2 far as we can ascertain?

3 A. I mean, I can honestly say that I would not 4 have forwarded that information to her. It would not 5 have been appropriate.

6 Somebody has told her about this meeting,

7 though. There is somebody in her group within the 8 hospital who have informed her, on the face of it, that

there's been some kind of discussion involving a junior 9

doctor. That appears to be information she has of sorts 10

there? 11

12 Α.

13 When you got that, did you question why

14 somebody who was suspected of a crime, was having access

to that information and, furthermore, feeling confident 15

enough to ask you, as the Medical Director, for further 16

17 information?

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18 I -- because I can't remember this email,

I can't remember what action I would have taken on 19 20 result -- on receipt of this email.

21 What made you think it was inappropriate?

22 Α. The tone of the email. The approach to me 23 asking for that information.

> Q. What is it about the tone?

Α. It's being made as a very sort of personal

approach. It is -- the tone of the writing within it and, also, it is the nature of the request that is being put in there.

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- O. You had obviously met her at the meeting on 22 December because we have been to those notes. Had you met her on other occasions before receiving this?
- The only time I ever met Letby was in meetings with others in Tony Chambers' office.
- That can come down. Can we have please INQ0005795. This appears to be you requesting information or Ms Hodkinson providing it for you in preparation for meeting with the Consultants, can you see? You are being provided with information from the grievance hearing, which you can add to the briefing paper for the meeting.

Can we see there you are asking for or receiving -perhaps you can tell us what you are asking for -comments about the behaviours of the Consultants. Do you know why you were asking for that information?

- A. I'm -- I can't see anything in that email to indicate that this was being sent to me in response to 22 a request. It would appear that it was sent by 23 Mrs Hodkinson in preparation for a meeting that I was to be involved in
 - So you received that. What did you make of

you anything they have done is inappropriate, I suggest you were bullying and intimidating them?

- I wasn't intentionally doing that.
- 4 Can we have a look please at INQ0003119, 5 page 1. This is a letter from Dr Jayaram on 2 March to 6 you:

"I am still very uncomfortable with all of this." He sets out why he thinks it's inappropriate that they are being invited to mediation process. It says:

"During the course of the fact finding process for the grievance someone reported that I and two other

Consultants had been heard to say potentially slanderous 12

things about LL. You yourself have not seen in writing 13

14 what is alleged to have been said, due to the documents

being confidential, have no knowledge of who reported 15

this, nor of who subsequently fed this back to LL. It 16

17 is unclear as to whether these were remarks made in

formal minuted meetings or remarks made in private that 18

were overheard and reported back, or both. It's also 19

unclear, as you have not seen the grievance report, how 20

accurate these reports may be and how much may have been 21

22 lost or exaggerated in translation.

23 "As Steve and I are the only paediatricians named 24 in the grievance, we alone have been asked to engage in mediation process. However, if the mediation process is 25

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all of that coming your way? 1

2 I understood that this was advice from 3 Sue Hodkinson with regard to actions to be taken as 4 a result of the grievance.

5 It looks as though it's information being 6 provided to you before the meeting on 6 February 2017, 7 if we go to that. INQ0014279, page 1. This is another meeting you are at with Mr Chambers, as well, with 9 Letby's parents, and we see at page 3, you say, halfway 10 down the page:

11 "I met with SB and RJ at lunchtime. We talked about how we needed to support you and the mediation 12 process. All members of the team will need a level of 13 mediation/remediation process. They accept they have 14 not acted professionally." 15

16 That is what you say to them: why?

17 I would only say that in response to the conversations that I had with Dr Brearey and Dr Jayaram. 18 19 I -- on reflection, and particularly with regard to one 20 of your earlier comments and questions with regard to 21 how they might feel -- accept that they might feel 22 forced into making that concession when that actually 23 wasn't appropriate.

24 Were you bullying and intimidating them, Mr Harvey? If they are accepting in conversation with

to facilitate the reintegration of Letby and to be

an enabler for safety in working, we suggested all seven 2

3 Consultants should be part of the process, as all of us

4 have expressed the same sentiments explicitly. You

5 explained the recommendation for only two of us to be

6 involved came from the external person who had been

7 asked to review the whole grievance."

He concludes:

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9 "After our meeting, it's become clear there are still no clear explanations for at least eight of the 10 unexplained collapses and deaths and possibly more cases 11 that have not yet been removed", and that they had 12 13 raised the concern eight months ago.

14 When you read that, did you think, "This is 15 nonsense, they shouldn't be mediating"?

16 I firstly wasn't aware that the mediation was 17 a voluntary process. When I read this, I was uncomfortable. I cannot say for sure when but I had 18 conversations both with Tony Chambers and Sir Duncan 19 20 Nichol expressing concern about how the grievance

process had run and the effect that it had had. 21

22 Dr Jayaram says he spoke to you in 23 an unscheduled face-to-face discussion, at some point 24 between his initial meeting with the mediator and the 25 planned meeting, and he again expressed concerns about

- the mediation process and Letby returning to work. 1
- 2 That's right, he did have a follow-up discussion, didn't
- 3 he --
- 4 Δ Yes
- 5 Q. -- as well as that? He says:
- 6 "During this discussion, I said to him that, if, as 7 was suggested, the behaviour of some Consultants fell
- 8 short of GMC standards, it should be his duty as Medical
- 9 Director to report those Consultants to the GMC, and he
- 10 queried how he could allow me and other colleagues to
- continue to care for babies if we behaved 11
- 12 unprofessionally."
- 13 Do you remember that?
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- 15 Q. The GMC is floating around there, isn't it, we
- 16 have seen it in conversations, in discussions, there is
- 17 references to you referring to the GMC.
- 18 The only references that I made with regard to
- 19 the GMC were reporting the threat from Letby's father
- 20 that he would report them and in trying to support
- Dr Jayaram and Dr Brearey in avoiding that process, I am 21
- 22 and was only too aware of the impact, even on doctors
- 23 who have committed no wrong, of undergoing a GMC
- process, and I was doing everything that I could to try 24
- and prevent them having to go through that. At no point

 - the GMC would be duty bound to contact the doctor and initiate some form of investigation.
 - I'm fully aware of the impact of even receiving
 - that first letter from the GMC on doctors. I had had
- 5 a number of phone calls from doctors in the evening or
- 6 at the weekend because they just received a letter and
- 7 the impact on them. And safeguarding or not, there
 - would have been an initial response from the GMC if, for
- 9 example, Mr Letby had written making a complaint.
- 10 In the informal conversation you had with
- Dr Jayaram encouraging him or telling him to have 11
- mediation, he says that you said to him he didn't need 12
- 13 to worry, if Letby came back to work on the neonatal
- 14 unit, it would be unlikely she would stay at the
- Countess very long and she would probably apply for 15
- a job elsewhere, as soon as possible. Can you remember 16
- 17 saying that?

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- I don't recall saying that, no. A.
- Well, you wanted her back on the unit, didn't 19
- 20 you, and you knew that the relationships were not
- harmonious on the unit? 21
- 22 I -- at that point, I don't think we had
- 23 completed all our investigations and, as Medical
- 24 Director, I wouldn't have been comfortable with her
- going back on the unit until we had completed those. 25

- did I ever threaten any of them with reporting them to 1
- 2 the GMC
- 3 Q. Let's look at page 2 of the document on 4
- screen. This is where you follow up and say:
- 5 "Thanks for coming in."
- 6 You say:
- 7 "Please can I counsel you to make effort to attend
- 8 the preliminary meeting with the facilitator. I think
- this gesture would go a long way to protect you from 9
- 10 a possible referral to the GMC from other parties,
- which, having supported many doctors have done no wrong, 11
- even then isn't a comfortable process." 12
- 13 You were the responsible officer, weren't you,
- 14 around GMC referral?
 - Α. Yes

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- 16 Q. You should have been saying, "You have raised
- 17 safeguarding concerns, don't worry about a GMC referral,
- Dr Jayaram. Don't even think about it?" 18
 - Α. Um.
- 20 Q. Here you are passing on, you say it was
- Mr Letby's view, rather than yours, but passing on "You 21
- 22 may have a referral"?
 - I don't think that that would have captured
- 24 what would have happened, even had it been safeguarding,
- if a party from outside had made a referral to the GMC,

- Option 4 was -- the meeting we went to earlier
- 2 was approved by the Execs. The plan was she could be
- 3 back on the unit reviewing competence and the like, and
- 4 that is what you expected in due course?
 - I -- I can't remember the option paper and
- 6 certainly I wouldn't have been comfortable with that and
- 7 we had -- until we had completed all our investigations.
- 8 Q. But if she got to the point that she was back
- on the ward, and you were comfortable with it, would it 9
- be logical in your view that she may not be and would 10
- 11 have left anyway and gone elsewhere?
- 12 Sorry I didn't catch the last --
- 13 The suggestion that you said, that she, if she
- 14 came back on to the unit, might look for a job
- elsewhere, if she was back on the unit and you were 15
- satisfied that she could be back on the unit, do you see 16
- 17 that she may still have wished to leave because the
- relationships were so fractured by then between her and 18
- 19 the doctors?
- 20 Α. If that was the case, yes. But I don't
- 21 believe that would have been the case, given the
- 22 subsequent events.
- 23 No. But the comment Dr Jayaram has made
- 24 resonates with you thinking, if she was okay to go back
 - on the ward, she might still choose to leave because the 92

atmosphere is not very good. That is the kind of remark 1 2 you may well said him: go to the mediation, if she comes 3 back she will probably leave anyway?

- I don't recall making that comment.
- 5 There's an Executive meeting on 14 February. 6 Can we go, please, to INQ0003379, page 1. See at the

7 top, it's recorded there "What are they plotting":

"Wondered what they are plotting."

9 Do you know what you were meaning by suggesting 10 "plotting", what were they plotting: what were you

thinking? 11

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- I was expressing frustration at trying to understand the basis of -- I believe, this relates to a letter. "Plotting", I don't think, was used as any sort of implication of underhand. It was simply a way of trying to ask what was the underlying motive for the letter?
- 18 It was an us and them situation, wasn't it: Q. 19 the Execs versus the Consultants?
- 20 It is one of my great regrets that, at this 21 stage, it was reaching that position, yes.
- 22 There was secrecy: secrecy from your side in 23 terms of information that you were sharing with them; and from their side, having emails deciding what to do 24 25 about that?

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1 "I repeat my comments of yesterday at the top. 2 I gather an apology letter was forwarded to Lucy 3 yesterday and I would like to thank your part for that. 4 I repeat my comments that we must separate the concerns 5 raised and the reviews from the grievance procedure." 6 What did you mean by that?

I would say it's -- it's apparent in that sentence that as -- that the grievance procedure was running in parallel to the other reviews, the College review, the Hawdon Review, McPartland, and I think, as others have said, retrospect, that wasn't an appropriate position. The grievance procedure should have been halted.

My level of knowledge of grievance procedure at that time wasn't such that I challenged it. I --I should have done. I think that is an inappropriate line but that was my understanding at the time.

- You were aware, as a consequence of the grievance procedure, Letby had sent a letter of communication to colleagues, saying she had been fully exonerated, exonerated of any concerns or complaints 22 about her?
 - A. I was subsequently aware of that letter.
- 24 So very difficult to separate that from the grievance procedure, where it was being deployed as 25 95

It reflected the fact that neither was feeling 1 entirely comfortable with the other and that was a dreadful situation to have had at that time. 3

If we see, halfway down, it said:

"Steve Brearey said to IH, 'may need 5

6 representation'."

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You tell us in your statement at paragraph 609:

"I vaguely recall Steve Brearey suggesting that he 8 felt he was being challenged and may need 9

10 representation."

11 Can you remember what he needed representation about, or thought he did need representation about? 12

I could only imagine that it was with regard 13 14 to the grievance.

Q. They felt their jobs were on the line, they 15 16 were on the line, didn't they?

17 According to their subsequent evidence, yes.

18 That wasn't apparent at the time.

19 Do you think the combination of you,

20 Mr Chambers and Ms Kelly could be an intimidating group

21 of Execs?

22 I wouldn't see us as intimidating, no.

23 Can we go to INQ0006890, page 236. We have

24 been to this but just look at the top paragraph. You

suggest there:

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an answer to the concerns raised --

Α. Yes

2 3 Q. -- namely that the Consultants had behaved 4 unprofessionally, were discredited. That was the effect 5 of the grievance process, wasn't it, to discredit the 6 Consultants: you did it in your grievance interview, 7 others did it to follow?

Α. I don't believe that I did discredit them.

You discredited them in the meeting with 9

Mr Letby, didn't you, you discredited them to him? 10

11 I -- I would accept that it wasn't the right thing to do, to run the grievance procedure in parallel 12

13 with the continuing reviews.

14 Well, it allowed you to express your 15 frustration and hostility to the Consultants' position, didn't it, and their behaviour. You were frustrated by 16

17 their continued requests around Letby not being

permitted back on to the ward, weren't you? 18

19 I had a degree of frustration but that wasn't 20 with regard to supporting her back onto the ward. My frustration was with regard to trying to pull everything 21 together to get to a consensus. 22

23 INQ0003073, page 1. Dr Brearey didn't go to 24 the mediation, we know that, and he sends a letter to you on 6 March expressing dissatisfaction with the way

the Trust has handled it. I will give everyone time to read that page and then if we can scroll over to the concluding paragraph on the second page. (Pause)

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It's page 3, I think. There's the end of the letter, reminding you of Dr Subhedar stating that he too was concerned about the cause of death and/or deterioration, remaining unexplained.

So you were having a clear pointer from Dr Brearey there, weren't you, that you hadn't, in any sense, examined the cause and concerns and the suspicion around Letby, and it was time to refer to the police.

He doesn't say "refer to the police", I am saying you reading it, you are being told very clearly there, despite the pressure being put on them, and Dr Jayaram said he felt under duress, having spoken to Mrs Hodkinson to do the mediation, they remind you, again, what they are really concerned about: babies on the unit, if she's going to come back.

A. They do, and it was apparent from this letter that the chances of a consensus were not there. I'm unsure of the timing of this letter, with regard to the letter requesting that we go to the Coroner. I believe there is a fairly close temporal relationship -- and it was that combination and the subsequent meeting that I had with Dr Subhedar and with the paediatricians that

What's "the case"?

A. I think it, it refers to the fact that one explanation or one factor in the increase in the mortality would have been the increase in intensity.

Q. That had nothing to do with the deaths, the sudden and unexplained deaths that needed baby-by-baby investigation and explanation, did it, and you knew that by this point?

It was irrelevant. It was irrelevant to the issue that needed investigating and irrelevant to each baby that had died suddenly and unexpectedly?

A. It was one -- one feature of a whole range of multi-factoral elements. There is obviously a great deal of limited detail within this board report in terms of not that it didn't report what was said but a limited amount was -- was said.

Certainly at this time, we were still faced with a situation where we had an increased level of mortality, that we were still trying to come to understand the cause, that we hadn't yet had -- completed the investigations. We were waiting for final reports.

And irrespective of the final recommendations,
I would not have been comfortable with considering as
I have already said the return of Letby until those

caused me to advise the Executives that we were in
 a position where there was no alternative, in my opinion
 but to go to the police.

4 **Q.** Can we move on now to preparation for an extraordinary Board of Directors meeting, 10 January 2017. If we go to INQ0003518, page 1. Turn to page 2 when we get there.

That's what you were inviting the Board to do:

9 "Support the Executive in assisting the staff
10 member's return to work on the neonatal unit, the
11 reviews having found no evidence of a single person's
12 culpability and in implementing the recommendations of
13 the grievance investigation."

So January 2017, no investigation into the
allegations that Letby's deliberately harming children
and you make that recommendation to the board.

And if we go to the meeting notes INQ0003237,
page 3, one comment, if you can expand on it, please.
Paragraph 5:

"Mr Harvey said that when thinking back to activity
one alarm bell was how many cots the unit had over their
allocation, the number of low birth weight and gestation
babies and this strengthened the case that it was due to
the intensity of the number of babies coming to the
unit."

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reviews and investigations had been completed.

Q. You did not say at this meeting or
subsequently, loud and clear, that the paediatricians
were concerned that there was a nurse killing babies and
the RCPCH Review had said it needs to be investigated or
had said, some time previously, that it needed to be
investigated?

A. I wasn't explicit in this meeting. But this
 had been discussed with the board previously.

I didn't feel that we had anything else coming out from the reviews to that point that would have supported that assertion. That was my, my honest view at the time I made this report.

Q. We will be hearing from the board next week,
Mr Harvey. You have seen and referred in your statement
to Sir Duncan Nichol saying he felt misled. There are
a number of people that have told the Inquiry they felt
misled by you.

Can you understand why Dr Hawdon, Dr McPartland and Sir Duncan Nichol would all be saying they had been misled by you?

A. I struggle to understand why they would say they had been misled other than the fact that it is extremely easy to make those comments. It is extremely easy to view one's views at the time on the basis of

hindsight and knowing how this ends and I don't think that is a true reflection of the situation that was presented at the time.

Let's look at a board meeting on 14 July 2016, INQ0004216. This is where it's being discussed whether the police should be contacted.

Look at what Mr Wilkie says on page 5. The whole board meeting will be uploaded in due course but look at number 5:

10 "Mr Wilkie stated he wanted to better understand what are the critical issues that mean it's not 11 appropriate to engage the police as he could see 12 disquiet. Mr Brearey replied that this has been 13 discussed after the last meeting with Mr Harvey. There is a considerable amount of discomfort regarding the 15 16 member of staff. It was felt that this was dragging on 17 and this would not solve the problem. There is a fantastic team and he morale is very low. They will 18 19 see a member of staff being closely supervised for no 20 apparent reason. People do have anxiety about that and there is definitely discomfort." 21

22 Over the page:

> "Mrs Hopwood asked how practical it was for the staff member to work under supervision."

If we go to page 7, we see Mr Wilkie said that:

1 agrees."

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Dr Jayaram replied:

"The only alternative is to go straight to the police and that they would want hard evidence."

Who was the person propelling the notion that you needed hard evidence or substantiation and proof, is that something you were saying, that you needed something clear?

> Well, that was a statement made by Dr Jayaram. A.

10 Yes, and it's something we know you have been saying. You keep saying, "There wasn't evidence. There 11 wasn't evidence, that's why we had to go and get 12 evidence and go and get these reviews". That was 13 14 something you believed, didn't you: you needed evidence rather than suspicion of a concern? 15

A. I believe that that was -- that was the belief of most or all of us. I would highlight on the page before that Dr Jayaram, there is reference to Dr Jayaram agreeing with the actions that they were appropriate and proportionate from that meeting and, at the risk of repeating myself, I have already agreed that I regret that we didn't speak with the police in June/July 2016.

23 Do you regret that you weren't more open with 24 people around you so that they could make their own decision about whether that was necessary or not? 25

"As a layperson who did not know how effective the 1 2 measures will be and asked how confident the Trust were that we are removing all risk. Mr Chambers replied 3 there will be weekly monitoring on neonatal services at 4 the Executive Directors Group." 5

6 Did you tell the board that at this time you had 7 been storing samples, two of the samples, the TPN bags that Dr Green came to collect and were stored at the 8 hospital in case they were used, needed to be used 9 10 further? Did you ever mention that?

To the board, no. 11

12 Why not? What does that tell you, that you 13 are keeping samples?

14 That was simply a reflection of the concerns that had been raised and Dr Green had informed us they 15 16 had been kept. Dr Brearey subsequently informed us that 17 the pathologist had no need of those, those samples.

Then we see at page 7 at the bottom:

19 "Sir Duncan stated there is a major future exercise 20 to look at everything and noted the Trust is committed

21 [when it comes] to do this. In the meantime the

22 previously expressed concerns about the individual,

23 actions are being taken. It's agreed that these are

reasonable as we cannot see a single hypothesis. We 24

have to move forward in this way if the majority

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1 I believe that I was open in the conversations 2 that I had with individuals, within the limit of the 3

extent of the information that we had.

MS LANGDALE: My Lady, this might be a good moment.

5 May I suggest a shorter lunch break, if that suits 6 people.

LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: Yes, certainly, 7

8 45 minutes?

Very well, so we will take the lunch break now and 9

we will come back at 1.50. 10

(1.06 pm) 11

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12 (The luncheon adjournment)

13 (1.48 pm)

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LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: Yes.

15 MS LANGDALE: Mr Harvey, can we move, please, to the topic of what the parents were told, and can we have 16 17 on screen, please, INQ0003100, page 1. This is an internal communications document, Mr Harvey, copied 18

in to the Executives and it's clear that the hospital 19

20 were sent an email that the newspaper was going to

publish a reference to the Royal College reports and 21

22 invited comment. We see here a draft comment in

23 paragraph 3:

24 "Medical Director at the Countess of Chester, lan 25

Harvey, said, 'We have done all we can to keep parents

informed and our clinical teams will be contacting them 1 2 again ahead of the review being published to make sure 3 a copy is available for them. 13 detailed independent 4 case note and pathology reviews will also be shared with the families on an individual basis. Our work on this 5 6 has only completed within the last two weeks and now we 7 have the full and accurate information to share with 8 parents. We are sorry for any distress or upset this 9 review may have caused. Those families affected have

11 First of all, did you approve that comment in 12 response to the publication?

> I -- I will have done. A.

been through so much already'."

14 Q. Was it true?

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- 15 It was true to the best of my knowledge. Α.
- 16 Q. "We have done all we can to keep parents 17 informed": that simply wasn't true.
- 18 A. At that time, that was how we felt about the 19 situation. In retrospect, I think we all -- I, as well. 20 as an individual, but also as the Executive Team --21 acknowledged that, actually, there was more that we 22 could have done.
 - Q. You didn't keep the parents informed at all, so that wasn't true but what you say is because that's what you thought was the best thing to do? Is that your
 - Were you planning to share it all, the comments about the nurse. You had had it since 28 November and in draft since 18 October. Were you planning to share with all the parents of the babies the doctors were concerned about, the suspicion of the nurse?
- 7 I think the intention was that we were going 8 to be sharing the version that was described for 9 dissemination, so that wouldn't have included the green 10 text.

We had a plan for that sharing and, yes, our hand was forced, insofar as we had to be precipitate in how we got the report out and shared to parents because of the impending publication.

15 We will look at another letter INQ0012619, page 3. So it is a different INQ, INQ0012619, page 3. 16 17 The template:

18 "Following on from your conversation with our Deputy Director of Nursing, Sian Williams, please find 19 20 enclosed a copy of our report. During this telephone conversation, it was explained to you that we asked for 21 22 this external assessment from the Royal College of 23 Paediatrics and Child Health and the Royal College of 24 Nursing. This step was taken because we wanted to better understand why there had been a greater number of 25

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1 answer, because the parents hadn't been kept informed at 2 all, had they?

3 Α. We had contacted, to the best of our ability, 4 to inform that, because of the concerns, a review was 5 ongoing. We obviously made it clear that we would be 6 contacting again to ensure that copies of the review 7 were going to be available for them to review.

8 Let's look at the letter. INQ0014411, page 3, 9 the template letter, dated 8 February, page 3. That's 10 a letter, isn't it, from you, which follows the fact that you know it's going to be published in The Times, 11 letting the parents know about the RCPCH Review and on 12 Friday last week, again pursuant to knowledge that it 13 was going to be published, parents are attempted to be 14 contacted; is that right? 15 16

Α. Yes.

17 Q. So your hand was forced, wasn't it, Mr Harvey, by the press publishing the RCPCH or the fact of the 18 19 RCPCH report and something of its contents and, at that 20 point Sian Williams, was tasked with trying to contact 21 the parents because it was going to come into the public 22 domain; is that right?

23 We had planned that we were going to be 24 sharing the review with the parents. I obviously haven't got that plan with the timescale.

1 deaths than we would normally expect on our neonatal unit. In the report, it describes no single causal 2

3 factor to explain the increase we have seen in our

4 mortality numbers. It makes a total of 24

5 recommendations across a range of areas, including

6 compliance with standard staffing, competencies,

7 leadership, team working and culture ... We are

8 desperately sorry for any distress or upset this review

9 has caused."

10 This letter covered up the concerns that were 11 raised by the paediatricians and the concerns that the RCPCH fed back to you about allegations of misconduct 12 not being investigated, didn't it? 13

14 I would dispute that it covered up any 15 allegations that the Royal College made. I would refer, again, to their reference to gut -- "gut feeling". I do 16 17 not feel that the Royal College report was explicit in any way. I believe that that had a significant role in 18 directing us. I believe that this letter summarises the 19

20 situation as it was on 8 February when it was dated. 21 What is your explanation for only sending it 22 on 8 February, when you had had the report for months 23 and when there was publication of the report through the

24 press?

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I -- I have no true recollection of why there Α. 108

was that delay. I can only surmise that that was to allow time for the Casenote Review, as well, in that the Royal College Review alone would obviously leave a lot of questions.

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Parents gave evidence, which you will have heard, varying from: first of all, there hadn't been attempts to really contact them because the hospital should have known where they were and weren't contacting them; secondly, that they had a letter delivered by 10 black cab just hours before the report was published; in another case, where someone was a patient at the hospital in a subsequent pregnancy, nobody tracking her 12 down and telling her about this, while no doubt comms 13 and everyone else is thinking what to say. What do you 14 say about how this was communicated and when? 15

A. As I think we, I -- I have already said, I am fully aware that the standard and the nature of our communications was way below the standard that was -was expected of us and that we should have maintained.

20 I don't think that it was appropriate, I don't 21 think that it was of a high enough standard and I don't 22 think that it actually truly recognised the distress 23 that these parents and families would be suffering.

Was it deceptive, in that it did not communicate the suspicion and concern that their babies 109

Q. Duty of care to who?

> A. Well, duty of care to staff.

3 Q. So you were balancing candour to parents of 4 babies with the duty of care to Letby?

5 And I would say that that -- yes, at that 6 point, that was a factor. It is very easy, with 7 hindsight, knowing what we know now, to say, well, as 8 has been regularly said, that that was obviously 9 completely wrong. But that wasn't the situation that we were faced with at the time and, until such time as 10 11 there was clarity, I believe that there was that 12 conflict for us. And it wasn't just for me: I think it

13 was for all of us and I think that, and I hope that,

14 something that will come out of this Inquiry is some

clarity for those who follow us with regard to how to 15

get that balance right. 16

> When they did see reports, because, you say, of the duty you had to staff, that's why you removed the green text, wherever it went: to the parents, to the CQC, in due course, and to external regulators, because duvet you had to Letby; is that the position?

> > 111

22 No. I'm not sure. I wasn't in direct 23 contact, I -- with the CQC, I wasn't their point of 24 contact, so I'm unsure at what point we shared the full report with them. I think I have already conceded that

had been deliberately harmed? 1

2 I do not believe that it was deceptive. 3 I believe that it was stating the position as we

4 understood it at that time.

You have said you hadn't communicated before this time but, having opened the channels of

7 communication, you needed to be transparent and candid

about what you were really dealing with at the Trust, 8

9 didn't you?

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10 I would refer to comments made by both Sir Robert Francis and Mr Medland, that we were faced 11 with intersecting and clashing duties and that 12 influenced the nature of communication. I -- I'm not 13

sure that we got the balance right. 14

15 What's the balance, what's the competing duty, 16 when it comes to being open and honest with parents

17 about their babies and their babies' injuries and

deaths; what are you balancing with that? 18 19

Well, this, I think, was what Mr Medland 20 referred to as the -- the differing duties.

21 Q. No, you tell me, not Mr Medland, what was the 22 other duty for you?

23 For me, it was duty of candour but also a duty of care, and it was that intersection that I think 24

proved difficult for us.

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1 I was slow in sharing the complete report with

2 specialised commissioning.

3 Mother C, she's represented with other 4 families in this Inquiry, so I will ask you this 5 briefly, she wrote to you directly, didn't she --

> Α. She did.

7 -- as a bereaved parent and following the 8 publication of the review, and you had a meeting with her; do you remember that? 9

10 I do. Α.

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Q. 11 You do: you do remember that?

12 Α.

13 Q. What did you say to her at that meeting about

14 what was happening?

15 I -- I don't have any notes of that meeting Α. and I cannot recall the detail of the conversation. 16

17 Were you very clear after the meeting that she

would want to know what the hospital knew about her 18

baby, in other words she would want candour and want to 19

20 know, moving forwards, what had happened and what was

21 being done?

22 A.

23 Did you fulfil that obligation of candour with Q.

24 Mother C, and indeed all of the other parents, moving

forwards from that time, in terms of telling them about

the risk that had been identified in their babies' cases 1 2 from a particular nurse?

At the time that that was ongoing, given that we were faced with an increase in mortality, that at that point there remained no definitive evidence, no, we did not raise that as a specific issue.

Did it ever occur to you that the parents may have relevant evidence to give or to assist in the investigation that was necessary?

To my regret, no, it didn't.

10 You know that Dr Hawdon's report was sent as a simple page with an attachment of medical notes, 12 a page or so, that related to their child, don't you? 13 That is all they got, a little explanation of the 14 report, to help navigate why it was done, what its 15 16 purpose was. They simply got a couple of pages that

17 related to their child; that was inadequate 18 communication about that review, wasn't it?

19 It was sent with a letter recognising that 20 they might not be able to interpret the details of the 21 report and that we were happy to arrange meetings to go 22 through that with them in detail and explain the 23 meanings of those.

> Q. You never did, did you?

A. I fully accept that that communication was

As a Medical Director, a medically qualified

1 have contributed.

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3 person, why didn't you choose to speak or meet with 4 a number of them, as soon as this had happened and the 5 communication channel had been opened? Were you worried 6 because you had that duty, as far as you were concerned, 7 to the member of staff and you were not going to tell 8 them about the suspicions or concerns about her, because 9 that's the decision you had made?

> A. No, absolutely not.

11 O. Well, you had made that decision, hadn't you, 12 not to share the suspicion and concern about Letby? 13 That was a conscious decision, Mr Harvey, and one you 14 stuck to

15 Well, we are, we're discussing arranging to A. meet the Families and, to be perfectly honest, it --16 17 whilst planning to meet with individuals, I hadn't considered that we should actually meet them more -- in 18 a more timely fashion as -- rather than reporting what 19 20 was found as a fact finding, and that's a significant 21 omission.

22 Q. Did you give thought to when that more timely 23 occasion might be, as the months passed after February?

I'm sorry, I don't understand the question.

When did you think that would be? If it Q. 115

both crass and inappropriate. We went through -- we 1

2 went along that in completely the wrong way. I --

sorry, I have lost my line -- train of thought now. 3

4 It was done in completely the wrong way. It was unthinking and insensitive. I would only say that we 5

6 were keen to share the information as soon as possible.

7 We were aware that there had been inordinate delays but

I accept that that doesn't excuse the way in which this 8

9 was done.

14

10 It's not simply the way in which it was done, it was the information and the evidence they could have 11 brought to the problem you were facing: they had 12 13 relevant evidence to give, didn't they?

It is now apparent, yes.

15 The mother of Baby D, who had pushed for the 16 Inquest, was always of the firm view the Sudden and 17 Unexpected Death could not be explained and something 18 must have happened. Had she seen the green text, she 19 would have picked up the phone to the police herself, 20 most likely, wouldn't she? You deprived the parents of 21 an opportunity to have an input on the issue the 22 hospital was addressing?

23 A. I -- I don't feel that I can speak to what 24 might have happened but I accept that the Families potentially had significant information that they could 114

wasn't going to be in February, early February, when

2 were you going to meet them?

3 A. I -- I believe it would be when we had -- we 4 were in a position to pass on all the information, so 5 that we weren't leaving any details hanging or 6 unanswered.

7 That can come down now, thank you. I am sure 8 you will be asked more questions about that topic.

9 I am going to ask you now about finally going to the police. Can we have on screen, please, INQ0003159, 10

11 page 1. This is a letter from Mr Chambers to

12 Dr Jayaram, setting out that:

"The Trust first advised the Coroner of Cheshire on 13

14 Friday, 8 July and subsequently kept him informed.

I can confirm that a copy of the report was shared with 15

the Coroner on 20 January, following which a meeting 16

17 with Mr Rheinberg, the Trust Medical Director and

Director of Corporate and Legal Services, was held on 18

19 8 February."

25

If we go over the page, Mr Chambers states: 20

21 "There has been a thorough internal and external 22 review. Explains the RCPCH review, independent external 23 review, of the 13 deaths ... thorough review of activity

24 and acuity levels and staffing profiles."

You attended the meeting on 15 February 2017 with

the Coroner, yes? 1

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A. Yes.

Q. Can we have that on screen, please, INQ0002048 0102. You will no doubt have seen this

attendance note. Can you just cast your eye over that

6 and tell us if you agree that's an accurate note of

7 that? (Pause)

> A. I believe so.

Q. That is an accurate note? We will be hearing from Mr Rheinberg next week and, whilst it may be the case the green text went through to the Coroner's office, he has no recollection of reading that before the meeting and was reliant on what was said in the

13 meeting. There is nothing that's said verbally that 14

puts centre front, does it, that there are suspicions 15

16 and concerns of a nurse deliberately harming a baby?

I recall that either Mr Cross or I, in passing

the paediatricians' letter across to Mr Rheinberg explained the background to that letter and the

paediatricians' concerns. I'm also aware that there is

20 documentation within the Inquiry that confirms that part 21

22 of the bundle that Mr Rheinberg received was actually

23 the full RCPCH Report, which included reference to the

24 paediatricians' concerns.

Thank you that can go down now.

1 I can't say, sorry.

"... or other experts conduct further review,

3 eg Janet Rennie, if anything to be gained.

"Dr Jayaram: What would be the level of depth?"

Then page 5, you say at the bottom:

6 "Stephen Cross and I have expressed and advised the

teams concerned. We met the Coroner. This is the

second occasion we have met with Mr Rheinberg and Alan

9 Moore. We have shared the review and a copy of your

letter and specifically called out the team's concerns. 10

11 "NR advised we should leave it with him as he was 12 reviewing his jurisdiction. It's been one definite

13 Inquest and two potential. No indication of reopening

14 any of the cases.

15 "Mr Chambers: he phoned police or acted within normal Inquest process. He has had everything we and 16 17 you have had."

Over the page, you saying:

"Absolutely, why we met with him. At some point we 19 20 need to meet with the parents."

21 At that stage, what were you thinking you needed to 22 meet with the parents to say?

23 At that point, I was recognising that we had 24 not had the opportunity to meet with the parents to

discuss that -- the reviews that we had had to date. 25

If we move then to a meeting on 27 March 2017, 1

INQ0003150, page 1, and, to put it in context when it

comes up, this is when the paediatricians describe 3

4 feeling desperate with their jobs under threat.

Dr Brearey says he's looking for another position in 5

6 another hospital, and Letby had come on to the ward to

7 have tea and reorientation updates. That's where we are

8 at in the timeline.

9 We see on page 1, Dr Jayaram:

10 "There have been deaths ..."

11 Then the next page:

"JM [Julie Maddocks]: given the information on the

13 balance of probability, illegal activity has caused the

14 deaths."

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15 You say:

16 "Or reasonable doubt."

17 Then over the page, page 3, you say:

18 "You have had access to everything, including the

19 reference to the HR processes that were redacted."

20 You are referring there, they have seen the green

21 print of the RCPCH:

22 "Refer [over the next page, at page 4] with three

23 options: contact the police; internal with NS support

24

25 What does "NS" mean?

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1 I believe the background of this meeting is that it

2 followed the meeting that I had had with Dr Subhedar and

3 some or all of the paediatricians having met the

4 Coroner, which they expressed their continuing concerns,

5 at which they presented those babies for whom they still

6 had major concerns and, on the back of which meeting,

7 I felt that there was nothing further for us to do,

8 short of speaking to the police. And I believe it was

on the back of me describing that situation to my 9

Executive colleagues and to Tony Chambers that this 10

meeting, with some of the paediatricians and with the 11

12 network, was scheduled.

13

The conference with Mr Medland was scheduled,

14 wasn't it, for the paediatricians to meet him and, if we

go to INQ0014378, page 1, we see your background summary 15

document that was sent to Mr Medland, as part of his 16

17 instructions. We see on page 2, at the top:

18 "Two Triplets born, died on 23rd and 24th.

Exacerbated the concerns there being no obvious cause 19

20 for the babies' collapse and it was alleged that the

nurse referred to above was involved in the care of 21

22 these babies."

23 Why do you say "alleged"?

24 Because I didn't know for sure what level of

25 care, whilst -- had -- had been associated with her at

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that time 1

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- The 30 June meeting made it very clear to you that she was looking after Babies O and P and, indeed, she had entered the Datix, which was the incident reported for P. You knew that she was the nurse who was present with O and P., so why do you say "alleged" and that you didn't know about the association: were you
- minimising it, playing it down? A. No, absolutely not.
- 10 So you had forgotten when you wrote that, is
- that the explanation: you had forgotten? 11
 - A. Sorry.
- 13 Q. You had forgotten that she was the nurse caring for O and P when you wrote it? 14
- I was aware that she was on the unit. I --15 16 I wasn't and hadn't checked to what extent she was 17 responsible for their care but was making clear that 18 she -- she was there.
- 19 On page 4, at the end the summary:

20 "In summary, we can demonstrate we have taken the concerns raised seriously. We have open and transparent 21 with the Coroner, our regulators, parents and the 22 23 public."

24 Pausing there, I think you accept you weren't open 25 and transparent with the regulators or the parents and,

to be reported to the police with a view to excluding any unnatural causes. Rather than reporting concerns, you just wanted to exclude unnatural causes, something like that?

No. I wasn't -- I wasn't aware of this rationale document. I hadn't seen it until this Inquiry. I think my view was summarised in the last paragraph of the document that has just been taken down, my summary, and that was that we required the assistance of the police. 10

Q. 11 13 April 2017 is a board meeting. If we can have, please, INQ0003236, page 1, Mr Medland attends. 12

Page 3, Mr Wilkie is concerned, look at the top: 13

14 "... if we can truthfully argue there has not been 15 a delay and it has not been possible to do sooner."

You say:

17 "Due process. We have done everything in a reasonable and explicable order but are beholden to 18 19 other delay."

Sir Duncan said:

21 "The board need to decide if we feel the work took 22 too long. Did it answer Dr Hawdon's report?"

23 Mr Harvey said:

24 "That's why I met with the Consultants with the review, to come to one view. Their view doubles the 25 123

therefore, the public; is that right? You now accept

that you were not open and transparent with the

regulators, parents and the public; you say you were 3

with the Coroner?

I -- I -- I accept that we -- we weren't as open as we should have been. I believe that we were open and transparent with the Coroner. I believe that we did pass on all the information to him.

9 You covered up from the parents and the 10 regulators the suspicions and concerns about Letby?

11 I wouldn't describe that as covering up.

I believe that was based on the -- the conflicting cares 12 that we were associated with at a time when we still 13

weren't completely sure what the situation was. 14

15 That was what you describe as motivating the 16 cover up but you agree you withheld that information and 17 concealed it because of the reasons, you say, that you had a duty of care to a member of staff? 18

19 Α. I wouldn't describe that as a cover up.

20 Mr Cross' document, INQ0006123, page 1, he summarises it thus for Mr Medland, on 3 April: 21

22 "No evidence to justify criminal investigation.

23 However, in the spirit of openness and transparency the 24 matter is being reported to the police."

25 Was it your view at this time that it simply needed

number of cases where there are concerns and they could 2 not define what they felt was a forensic view."

3 So you are saying there you know that Dr Hawdon's 4 report -- the Consultants are still concerned and they 5 have more cases where there are concerns, just as 6 Dr Subhedar said. Then you say they could not define 7 what they felt was a forensic review. Who are you 8 suggesting didn't know how to define what was a forensic

9 review? 10 I suspect that that is probably a typo and

11 probably reflects Dr Hawdon's response that Mr Medland -- excuse me -- had picked up on. Dr Hawdon

13 had made reference to a forensic review and Mr Medland

14 had advised that we ask what was meant by a forensic

review, in her opinion, and the response from Dr Hawdon

was, "Well, it can, effectively be whatever you want it 16

17 to mean".

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Q. If you look at page 5:

19 "Mr Harvey stated he met with one of the sets of 20 parents and their concern was that we will turn their 21 world on its head and they would start grieving all over 22 again."

23 To be clear, that wasn't any of the parents of the babies named on indictment, but you are saying that you spoke to some parent, did you? You don't give us

1 a name; tell us what you mean there, who have you spoken 2 to?

> A. I'm sorry, how do you mean?

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- You are telling the meeting you had spoken O with a set of parents who was concerned that their world would be turned over and they would start grieving all over again.
- Yes. It was a concern that had been expressed A. on the back of fresh revelations that had come out in the press. The story in The Times had reopened their wounds, their grieving process, and I was simply highlighting the impact that all of this was having and would continue to have on the parents, and that we needed to be aware of that.
- It would be inevitable that that would turn their world on its head but no one had suggested to you they wouldn't want to know the truth, would they?
- And I wasn't suggesting there that we should 18 19 hide it to protect them.
- 20 So why were you suggesting it at all in this Q. 21 context?
- 22 Α. I wasn't. I was highlighting that this was 23 an issue that we needed to be aware of in approaching the parents, that it was going to be a very difficult 24 25 and a very stressful time. This wasn't an implication
- 1 Mr Harvey, on 19 April 2017 and Financial Officer, Simon 2 Holden. This is his note, Chief of Finance. We see 3 halfway down Executive Directors: 4
- "A broader forensic review of four cases 5 recommended, similar to CDOP [Child Death Overview 6 review] to investigate."

7 Were you discussing the Child Death Overview Panel 8 investigating those cases, was that a plan at that 9 point?

- I think that is a reflection of one of 10 Mr Medland's recommendations, that a way to approach the 11 police would be through CDOP, on which Mr Wenham sat. 12
- 13 Why does it mention four cases recommended 14 then. It looks as though there is a discussion of investigating cases or not? 15
- 16 A. I think that relates to Dr Hawdon's review.
- 17 Next document INQ0003076, page 5. Meeting, Friday, 12 May with the police. If we look halfway down 18
- 19 the page:
- "Ian Harvey has repeatedly challenged the 20 clinicians, asking if there has been any acts which 21 22 Countess of Chester needed to be aware of which would
- 23 effectively give a case but repeatedly they have said
- 24 no."
- 25 Why did you contribute that to the meeting? 127

- that we should be paternalistic and protect them.
- 2 It's clear over the page, page 6, to complete
- 3 it:

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- 4 "Sir Duncan added we are still searching for explanations. Not saying she's still in the frame but 5
- 6 it is a legitimate point that the forensic review be 7 conducted."
- So there is still the need for investigation, that 8 9 is what the Chair of the board says?
- 10 Yes, and my understanding from before Mr Medland was instructed, through to this, was this was 11 all a prelude to contacting the police. 12
- 13 So your view is that, on 13 April, the plan was to go to the police; is that what you thought was 14 15 going to happen?
- 16 My view was that, prior to the instruction of Α. 17 Mr Medland, we were going to the police and I think that is borne out by the final paragraph of the summary 18 19 document I prepared for Mr Medland.
- 20 Then after this meeting, did you still think 21 that was the case, after this board meeting? 22 A. As far as I was concerned, that was our only
- 23 option.
- 24 Can we go please to INQ0101091, page 739. This is a meeting between Executive Directors,
- 1 In meeting with the police, I felt it was 2 important that we presented a comprehensive picture.
 - Is that comprehensive?
- 4 Α. Well, I think the whole document ends up 5 comprehensive. I mean, a single sentence in isolation 6 is never going to be comprehensive but I feel that in 7 subsequent paragraphs there is further detail.
- 8 This is simply calling out that they had their 9 concerns about the repeated presence of Letby in relation to deaths and collapses but, to that point, 10 11 they had not, at any point seen, nor did they report, any other evidence that was definitive or even 12 13 indicative of a malicious act.
- 14 Q. Next page, Mr Harvey. Page 6, third paragraph 15 down:
- 16 "Ian Harvey added Countess of Chester are mindful 17 they do not want to use Cheshire Constabulary as a HR process for staff. If you place yourself in the mindset 18
- of paediatricians to see what the motivation is, there 19
- 20 is a strong sense of personal accountability that
- a clinician feels and when there is no clinical 21
- 22 explanation they feel uncomfortable. It is unusual that
- 23 they have a collective mindset. This is a problem which
- 24 the Countess of Chester need to manage as it is not
- a criminal issue." 25

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Why did you say that?

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I suspect that the last sentence is a typo, in saying that it would be a problem we would have to manage if -- if it was not a criminal issue.

I am initially paraphrasing the Coroner in saying -- he told us that he wasn't a QA process for the hospital. I was recognising that we weren't relying on the police to help us with staff but I was also calling out that the paediatricians felt that strong sense of personal accountability when they were faced with a situation which they can't directly explain and with which they are extremely uncomfortable. In this particular situation, the high mortality.

14 Page 8, please. You wish to raise two issues Q. 15 at the top.

"When the issues were first raised by Stephen Brearey, it was held under the Speak Out Safely policy that he had protection as a whistleblower."

Not true, would you agree?

I accept that that was only actually enacted later on in the process, yes.

Why was it even relevant to raise that?

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A. I -- I think it was just part of

24 a comprehensive conversation and it was to indicate 25 that, certainly, albeit later than should have been the

"My own feeling is that, unless there is something that the paediatricians haven't disclosed previously that evidences criminal activity, there will not be

an investigation and the police will assist us in a message that will allow us to close down the

speculation here and deal with the issues of culture."

That sums up the contribution you made to the meeting and what you thought would be the effect of the

meeting, doesn't it?

No, it doesn't. That sums up the feeling that I and, I believe he reported yesterday, Tony Chambers had from the conversations that we had had with the police with their what seemed to be reluctance to initiate an investigation, their asking if there was any other organisation that we could take this to and, at the close of that meeting, as Tony Chambers had alluded to, that uncertainty that led to him saying that, before

17 you make a final decision, it is imperative that you 18

19 speak with the paediatricians.

> Fortunately, of course, Dr Jayaram had communicated directly and, pursuant to a meeting with the paediatricians, the investigation was launched and the paediatricians' concerns were as they had been relayed to the Executives. What do you think was

different: why did they understand the need for forensic 25

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process, Stephen Brearey had that protection. 1

2 Mr Wenham gave evidence to say that, at the 3 meeting on 12 May, it appeared that the Executives were 4 trying to shut the doors on the investigation; do you 5 accept that?

Α. No, absolutely not.

Q. When you read the contributions you made now, do you understand why that may be the impression given?

9 No, I don't because, if you read the notes as 10 a totality, I believe it is clear that Mr Chambers was pushing the police to proceed. 11

12 Your contributions, I am asking you about. As 13 a Medical Director, when you read all of your 14 contributions?

15 I was simply providing factual background, and Α. 16 I was not trying to influence them one way or the other. 17 I was giving them the basis of coming, and I wouldn't accept that I was actually trying to dissuade them. 18

19 If we go to, please, INQ0014678, page 1, you 20 update Margaret Kitching, NHS England on 12 May:

21 "Just wanted to update you ... they are minded not 22 to hold an investigation. Firstly, they don't feel 23 there is evidence of criminal activity and, secondly, 24 they are mindful of the effects on families."

25 In the second paragraph, you say:

1 investigation and you did not?

I believe that they were in a position both 2

to -- I believe they received further information.

4 I hadn't, at this time, been aware of the reports with

5 regard to Baby K, although I believe others did. I am

6 also aware that, when we went to the police, we were in

7 a position to say, "Well, whilst it falls short of

8 a police inquiry, we have taken every reasonable step

that a hospital could do and we cannot explain the

increased mortality to the satisfaction of, at this 10

point, the most important people", that being the 11

12 paediatricians.

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INQ0107034, page 35. It is a statement of

14 Michael Gregory, Medical Director for Specialised

Commissioning. You have accepted, Mr Harvey, that you 15

were not frank with the Commissioners of Specialised 16

17 Services. Can we just read, please, the reflections

from 136 to 141 of this statement. (Pause) 18

19 He says that he wasn't informed, you weren't open.

20 He said, at paragraph 138:

21 "Specialised Commissioning was not informed that

22 the Consultant paediatrician concerns related to one

23 individual. If I knew this in hindsight I could have

pressed the hospital further. However, it's difficult to press on something that I was not informed about and

I had limited authority in my role when dealing with the 2 hospital Medical Director. When I raised the 3 possibility of an individual having disproportionate involvement, this was dismissed by Ian Harvey who informed me that they had undertaken multiple reviews 6 and discounted this as a possibility."

Paragraph 140:

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8 "Throughout the relevant period, Specialised 9 Commissioning was willing to offer the hospital support, 10 however what support we did offer was not being taken. By April 2017, I was growing increasingly frustrated. 11 The Royal College report had a section missing and did 12 not contain the individual case reviews that I thought 13 Ian Harvey had agreed to provide. I felt there was 14 a lack of transparency from the hospital, avoidance of 15 16 answers and wanting to defer the issues we raised. We 17 were still in email contact with the hospital in April 2017 but, when we asked questions, we did not receive 18 19 straight answers. My sense was that the hospital was 20 intent in conducting its own process through their board 21 and were evasive in response to our questions. The 22 message that kept coming from the hospital was that we 23 had to wait until they had done things internally. 24 However, what that involved was not relayed to us." 25 Do you accept, from his perspective, that was the

1 a very difficult situation and was asking for more time 2 so that he could handle matters within the hospital. 3 When I pressed him as to what this difficult situation 4 was he indicated that the hospital were having issues 5 with the paediatricians." 6

In paragraph 105:

"lan Harvey also seemed to suggest that one clinician had some sort of agenda."

Is that accurate?

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A. I don't believe it is accurate, no.

an issue with the paediatricians and you did have a particular concern about how your lead neonatologist on a ward was going to be able to work with somebody he wouldn't mediate with and didn't think should be there. We have gone through the documents, I don't need to

Why would he suggest that? You did have

16 17 repeat them? 18 I was -- I was looking at both paragraphs and

I would dispute the extent to which I was pushed. 19

20 I believe that, given that a more senior Medical

Director working with Specialised Commissioning was 21

22 involved, he was in a position to actually enforce if he

23 felt it was appropriate and I -- I wouldn't have, in

24 those circumstances, withheld anything.

> Can we go back to 97 and 98, finally, on this 135

impact of the failure to be open with them? 1

2 In the first instance, I would dispute his 3 assertion that he had raised the possibility of 4 an individual with disproportionate involvement. I believe that, in the meeting with him, I had described 5 6 that. I have accepted that we were slow in sharing 7 information with Specialised Commissioning but I would also dispute the degree to which they pressured to 8 9 obtain information.

10 It was not a desire to hide anything from them. It was perhaps an inappropriate degree of concern about documents leaking into the public domain before we had 12 had the opportunity to share them with the people who 13 needed to see them, for example the parents. 14

15 We see at paragraph 104 and 105, if that 16 assists you, when he says:

17 "When I pushed Ian Harvey [paragraph 104] on the 18 involvement of an individual staff member, he stated he 19 did not want to go into any more detail until the 20 hospital had made a significant announcement about the 21 decision they had taken to speak to an appropriate body 22 on the following Monday. He did not indicate what that 23 announcement was, nor what the appropriate body was he was referring to. I don't believe an announcement was 24 made on the Monday. Ian Harvey told me he was handling

1 statement. Paragraphs 97 and 98, which is page 25. It 2 says:

3 "On 10 January, extraordinary board meeting. I did 4 not know about the meeting. My understanding the board 5 papers were not made public or shared with NHS England. 6 I do not believe the board papers for the meeting were 7 public at that stage. I was not aware that 8 an individual was involved or that a nurse had ever been taken out of the unit [this is 10 January]. Had 9 Specialised Commissioning North been told that an 10 11 individual had been moved off the neonatal unit due to 12 concerns from clinicians, we would also have expected to 13 have been informed of the decision to reinstate her on 14 the unit.

15 "We were never informed there were concerns with regard to an individual nurse. In my role, I had 16 17 experiences with other Medical Directors in hospitals who have rung me up to inform me about concerns with 18 particular individuals. Informing of these concerns and 19 20 decisions is part of having an open and transparent culture of patient safety, which I came to believe was 21 22 lacking at the hospital."

23 He says there he has had experiences of other 24 Medical Directors. Did you ever share concerns with Specialist Commissioners about members of staff, if you

1 had them?

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- A. In other circumstances, no.
- Q. No. This can go down, thank you.

In the end, Mr Harvey, whatever the systems are in

5 place, it's important, isn't it, in the NHS that the

6 culture is such that people can speak out without fear

or concern when they are worried about patients, and do

8 you accept now that you weren't listening to concerns

9 raised and you weren't acting on them, as you should

10 have done in your time as Medical Director?

A. I believe that I was listening.

I accept that I didn't act in, in the way that

13 others wanted me to and I accept that there were actions

14 that I should have taken in a much more timely fashion

15 than I did.

16 **MS LANGDALE:** Those are my questions, thank you.

LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: Thank you very much,

18 Ms Langdale.

19 Mr Baker?

Questions by MR BAKER

21 **MR BAKER:** Mr Harvey, I ask questions on behalf of 22 the Families of a number of harmed and murdered babies,

23 including, for these purposes, Family C and Family D.

24 Can I begin by taking you back to something that

you said to Ms Langdale, not too long ago. You

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1 never going to work.

It is always going to be underpinned by how safe you are and how good your care is.

Q. You see, I suggest you reached the point by

5 small increments, but by April 2017 a situation had

developed whereby the Executives were desperate that the

Consultants' concerns do not become public. That is

8 what had happened, isn't it?

A. I don't think this was a desire to obscure

their concerns or hide their concerns. Our concern was

always how we would be able to come to a consensus with

12 regard to what had caused, if anything, the deaths of

13 all the babies that we were reviewing. And I would say

14 at that point, in April 2017, certainly from my

15 perspective, the decision was that we had to go to the

16 police.

17 Q. You see, you have been questioned about

18 whether that was actually what the Trust Executives were

19 wanting to do in April 2017, and I won't repeat

20 questions that have been just put to you by Ms Langdale

21 on that point, but I would say the Families do not

22 accept that, that even in April 2017 you were still

23 trying to cover things up, weren't you?

A. No, absolutely not.

Q. In that case, can I take you to a letter that 139

1 described competing duties between the duty of candour

2 and the duty to staff and that isn't quite what

3 Mr Medland said, when he talked about not always well

4 aligned or not always aligned duties of care.

5 He spoke about a dichotomy, apparently, between

6 patient safety and reputational management.

Now, is that not a perfectly credible

8 interpretation of what he saw in the Trust by April

9 2017: a tension between candour and safety on one hand

10 and reputational harm on the other hand?

11 A. I don't recall that Mr Medland actually

12 described reputation in the way that you are perhaps

13 implying.

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14 Q. He said it wasn't in evidence, he wasn't

15 describing it in a superficial way, just pure bad

16 publicity but reputation was part of what he observed.

17 **A.** And I refer to one of my earlier answers,

18 that, certainly as far as I am concerned, the reputation

19 of a hospital or a hospital Trust is not some standalone

20 character that one can protect. It is inherently

21 reliant on the safety and the quality of the care that

22 that organisation provides and at no point did I and

23 I am sure any of my Executive colleagues have a level of

24 concern purely about the reputation of the Trust because

25 that's just a house built on shifting sand. That is

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1 you wrote to Mother C on 28 April 2017. Now, Mother C,

2 you will recall, you had already had interactions with

3 previously in February and throughout the early part of

4 2017 because you had been -- you had reached a point

where you were having to communicate with her about the
 RCPCH Report and Hawdon investigations, firstly because

7 she had contacted you or the Trust in July 2016 and then

8 because of The Times exposé regarding the Hawdon Report,

9 the RCPCH Report.

10 You wrote to her on 28 April 2017 and this is at

11 INQ0008973. Now, if what you say is correct, that in

12 April 2017 you had reached the point where you knew that

13 the police were going to be called, and you wanted that

14 to happen, then can you explain to the Inquiry why none

15 of that appears at all within your letter to Mother C?

16 **A.** That is because, at that point, that was my

17 own personal view. As is apparent, despite that a being

18 my own personal view, Mr Medland had been commissioned

19 for a report and --

20 **Q.** This is 28 April, Mr Medland had been and 21 gone.

22 A. Yes, and at this point, it was my view that we

23 were. I was waiting, and I can only surmise I was

24 waiting, until we had had the confirmation that we had

25 met and were going to meet with the police.

Q. Those words are weak, aren't they, because it 1 2 would have been open to you to write to Mother C on 3 28 April if it were the view of you and all the 4 Executives -- because Tony Chambers told the Inquiry 5 yesterday, and the day before, it was also his view as 6 well in April 2017 that the police were going to be 7 called -- it would have been open to write to her and to 8 say, "I cannot update you at the moment because there 9 are further matters which need to be confirmed and 10 I will write to you soon". Instead, you wrote to her providing her with extracts from the Hawdon Report, 11 which you describe as "An independent external review 12 13 regarding the care of your baby".

Mother C could have come away from reading that letter with a sense that the Countess of Chester had entirely fulfilled its duties, investigated the death of her baby carefully and that nobody had any concerns beyond those recorded within the pages that follow. That would have been utterly misleading -- I go further, a lie -- wouldn't it?

21 A. I would say that I was fully anticipating,
22 firstly, that there would be a follow-up meeting because
23 there would be a need, given the nature of the contents
24 of that report, to discuss the contents in detail and
25 I would also -- I think also in the background of my
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never wanted to seek legal advice over all of this because, as I said in my original letter, we want to move forward. However, this really is prolonging our suffering.

"I would be grateful if you could send me a copy of the report from the Royal College of Paediatrics' review and a copy of the subsequent investigations regarding [Child C]. This really is the least that we deserve at this stage."

Mother C was begging you for answers by this point, having been fobbed off on previous occasions. Now, your response to her was dishonest, if you believed at that point the only solution was to call the police; do you agree?

- A. I don't. This letter is heart-rending.
- 16 **Q.** Is what, sorry?
- 17 **A.** Heart-rending.
 - **Q.** Yes.

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- 19 A. It captures an emotion that many will not
- 20 know, fortunately, and, in reading this, in fact it
- 21 served to reinforce the effects of delays, and I believe
- 22 that that would influence how I might write, taking this
- 23 into account to suggest that there were going to be
- 24 further delays again.
 - I -- I -- I wouldn't accept that the letter I wrote
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mind was that I had previously sent one, two letters
that had again simply passed on a message of it being
a holding message.

4 Q. Can I give you some words from Mother C that 5 preceded your letter. I'm about to give you some

6 insight into her level of desperation at this time.
7 It's INQ0008971. If we go on to the next page, ple

7 It's INQ0008971. If we go on to the next page, please:

8 "Dear Mr Harvey ..."

This is 19 April, some nine days earlier:

"Thank you for your letter dated 3 March. I am sure you are aware that being informed that there were areas of further investigation required regarding our son's case was a surprise to us, given the information we had been given by yourself and Sian Williams up to this point."

I pause there to say that the information that had been given to her by Sian Williams and yourself to this point was that there were no real concerns and nothing required investigating:

required investigating:
"Whilst I am aware that things don't happen
instantly and reports and results take time, I really
would like to point out how awful this is for us. We
are still waiting. Our son would have been two in June.
It has been six and a half weeks since your last letter.

5 I really cannot tolerate any further delays. I have 142

1 was dishonest.

Q. But how awful, you would have known, it would
 be to receive that letter from you, which suggests
 nothing but minor issues relating to care and to find
 out a few weeks later that the Trust were contacting the
 police because they believed crimes had been committed.

7 You must have known that when you wrote the letter?

8 A. I didn't know at that point that -- what the
9 result of a police conversation was going to be and
10 I was mindful of -- and, again, it's that clash with
11 regard to the extent of the duty of candour -- I was
12 mindful of introducing additional distress that might
13 not actually have a basis.

14 Q. You were hedging your bets that she would15 never find out about the police?

16 **A.** Absolutely not.

17 **Q.** What about Mother D? The Hawdon Report for

18 Mother D describes issues relating to the care that was

19 provided to Child D. An Inquest was due to be happening

20 fairly soon. The Trust had been advised by Hill

21 Dickinson in the run-up to the Inquest to admit

22 liability, you had Jane Hawdon's report identifying

23 areas of care. The Trust didn't even fulfil the basic

level of candour in coming forward and saying, "We are

concerned that breaches of duty, let alone murder, have

contributed to harm to your child". Was there
 an institutional lack of candour in the Countess of

3 Chester at this time?

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A. I don't believe that there was, no.

Q. Can I go back then to the start of the chronology, insofar as you were concerned. The opening statement on behalf of the Executives states that the first time that concerns about Letby were raised with senior managers, including yourself, was at the end of June 2016, after the sad deaths of Child O and P. That's not correct, insofar as you, is it? You knew before the death of O and P that concerns had been

raised regarding Letby?
A. I was aware that an association had been
reported. I -- at that point, before June/July, didn't
view it as any more than that and I believe that that's
supported by the tone and the content of the meeting of
the 11 May 2016, and the actions that came out of that,
and the subsequent email from Dr Brearey in terms of

summary of the meeting.

Q. Let's go through those. We can go to them in a moment but can we begin, first of all, with your knowledge about the Thematic Review.

24 If we go please to INQ0003140. Now, an issue in 25 Dr Brearey's evidence is that he says that he had asked 145

1 **Q.** Yes. Okay. Well, if we go up to Dr Brearey's response to you on the next page:

"Hi, lan. It wasn't an external review but we did have a review of all the cases from 2015."

He attaches the draft minutes and actions from the meeting and says that he's only circulated it on to attendees.

Then at the top of this page, you email Alison Kelly, and you say:

"FYI, in the light of Sarah's earlier graph [it is actually the second paragraph that's the important one], I queried with Steve the sharing of joint work with obs and their previous review, and he said they will get joined up at the Women and Children's Governance Board."

14 15 Now, nowhere in your email to Stephen Brearey or his response does that information appear about querying 16 17 with Steve the shared work and his response "They will get joined up to Women and Children's Governance Board", 18 so it must follow that, either there were additional 19 20 emails that we haven't seen, which is what Dr Brearey says, or you had a conversation with Dr Brearey about 21 22 this?

A. I -- I believe that there is reference in
 another email to Dr Brearey talking about that sharing
 your joint work.

1 you for a meeting in February 2016. Now, you emailed

2 Stephen Brearey on 15 February at 10.22 in the morning.

3 The letter begins at the bottom of this page "Dear

4 Steve", but if we go on to the next page:

5 "Am I correct in thinking that you commissioned 6 an external review of recent neonatal deaths? If so, is 7 there any early feedback ahead of this week's visit."

8 That is the CQC visit. How did you find out about 9 the Thematic Review?

10 A. I believe through Alison Kelly.

11 Q. So as of 15 February 2015, Alison Kelly knew12 that a Thematic Review was under way because she told

13 you about it?

A. I -- I believe that she was aware of a review,
whether it was termed a Thematic Review, I wouldn't
know.

Q. Yes, I mean her evidence was somewhat
 different to that, but your recollection is that she

19 informed you of a Thematic Review. I mean, somebody

20 had: you clearly had prior knowledge when you emailed21 Stephen Brearey?

22 A. Well, I -- I wasn't told by Dr Brearey.

Q. No

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24 A. It would have to have come either through

25 Eirian Powell and thereby Alison Kelly.

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1 **Q.** So what Dr Brearey says in his evidence is 2 that he communicated with you that he hasn't been able

3 to find the email confirming this but that you told him

4 that you would be -- he would be to merge the obstetric

5 and neonatal reviews but, at the same time, he asked you

6 for a meeting: a meeting with you and Alison Kelly. So:

7 "My recollection is that I also asked for a meeting 8 with him and Alison Kelly at this time. He replied to 9 say that the report and the obstetric report completed 10 in November 2015 should be amalgamated but did not 11 indicate when we would meet to discuss."

So your email to Alison Kelly relaying information from Stephen Brearey, which isn't in his email to you, does sort of suggest, doesn't it that that exchange had

15 taken place?

15 taken place?

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A. I would also point out that there are some
 factual inaccuracies in Dr Brearey's recollection of the

18 initiation of this email trail.

Q. Well --

20 A. In his statement Dr Brearey says that --

21 Q. Could you answer the question, please?

22 **A.** Well, I -- yes, I am doing, sir.

23 Q. The question I asked is: does your comment not

24 imply, as Dr Brearey says, that there were further

25 discussions between you and him of the sort that he

described? 1

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2 A. I do not believe so because I think his memory 3 is faulty on certain issues with regard to these email 4 trails.

5 So you deny that he asked you for a meeting in 6 February 2016?

I have no recollection and, certainly, based on the order of events in Dr Brearey's statement, I have no reason to believe that he did.

No, but your answer is you have no collection. Q. Thank you.

12 We then have emails to between Eirian Powell and 13 Alison Kelly in March 2016. I can take you to them if necessary but it provides a request to Alison Kelly for a meeting and provides a copy of the Thematic Review 16 subsequently, but refers to high mortality and a commonality with a particular nurse.

Were you aware of those emails and the sending on 18 19 of the Thematic Review in March 2016?

Without seeing whether I am on the circulation list, I -- I can't answer that.

22 You are not on the circulation list of this 23 email chain but what I am asking you is did Alison Kelly make you aware that there were further emails regarding 24 the Thematic Review?

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1 My interpretation was alarmed that there was 2 a nurse who had been moved on to day shifts.

3 Because you thought that might be inconvenient 4 for her or ...?

Well, given the tone of Dr Brearey's email, and his description of Eirian "sensibly" putting her on to day shifts and more a concern with regard to staffing numbers, I didn't read that as a particular concern other than for the well-being of the nurse. I didn't read that as an indication he was concerned about that nurse's performance in some way.

12 Q. Really?

> And I -- and I believe that was reflected in my response to Alison Kelly's email that, as I read it, it may well just be that he was concerned regarding her welfare or words to that effect.

So you thought that Alison Kelly was alarmed in the context of high number of deaths and other arrests and a nurse who was present for those who's been moved on to day shifts, only for the moment -- you thought her alarm related to concern for the nurse's well-being, not that correlation?

23 I believe that is reflected in my email 24 response to Alison Kelly's, yes.

> Did you not realise, I suggest to you you must 151

Not at that time. If she -- if she did it 1 would have been by forwarding them to me.

So if we come on to May 2016. If we go, 3 please, to INQ0003138, and this is an email from Alison 4

Kelly, 3 May 2016, which includes you and Stephen 5

6 Brearey. This is at the very bottom, onto the next

7 page. We see here there's an original appointment at

the bottom there which has your name on it as well, "To

lan Harvey", and it is being cancelled and they are 9

10 looking for an alternative date for the meeting. What

did you understand the purpose of that email meeting to 11

be: to discuss the Thematic Review and concerns that had 12

13 been raised?

14 My, my understanding was, yes, it was to Α. 15 discuss the Thematic Review.

16 INQ0003087, please. Again, we have an email 17 from Stephen Brearey, which is referring to, as you have

been asked already: 18

19 "Quite a few of the deaths and arrests. Eirian has 20 sensibly put her on day shifts at the moment but can't 21 do this indefinitely."

22 You are being emailed by Alison Kelly there saying: 23 "Please see Steve's comments below which alarmed

24 me!"

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25 What did you understand her to be alarmed by?

have done, that Stephen Brearey's concerns related to the correlation, by this time, between sudden unexpected

3 collapses, a nurse being present on the ward at the

4 point when these happened, and concern about what was

5 causing these collapses, how they might be connected? 6

As it was expressed in his email of 4 May, no.

Not how it was expressed in his email on 4 May but based on everything that you had heard up until that point?

10 Based on everything that I had heard ...? Α.

11 Up until that point? O.

No, I hadn't picked it up. It hadn't been 12

expressed in that sort of way in any of the 13

14 communications that I -- I had seen, nor do I believe

that it was explicitly referred to in the meeting that 15

we subsequently had. 16

17 So your evidence is that, at this point in May 2016, you had no clue at all about any concerns 18 regarding the connection between Lucy Letby and sudden, 19 20 unexpected and unexplained collapses on the ward and

21 deaths?

22 Α. At this time, with the Thematic Review, I was

23 aware that there were concerns with regard to

24 an increased number of deaths, that they were being

investigated, that whilst one member of staff had been 25

on duty more frequently, the individual case reviews, whilst highlighting some themes, had not caused any major concerns to be raised.

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If we go then to the meeting that occurred on 11 May 2016 and we look at the handwritten note of that, which is INQ0003181. So there is a little more information here. Again, the Thematic Review is discussed, and it says about deteriorations:

"Deteriorated 9.00 pm - 6 times, midnight to 4."

Did you not see anything significant about the fact that all of these deteriorations were occurring at night shifts?

As I believe I gave in evidence yesterday, there is evidence that standards of care are lower at weekends and at night and, in seeing that, that would have been my initial concern.

Well, we can go to that issue because it's down the bottom of the page. Can you see where it says "sub optimal care". It describes one case, where there were concerns about the care that had been provided and the pharmacist's poor decision-making. So can you take from that that, in all of the cases being described, in only one was Stephen Brearey able to identify evidence of sub optimal care; that's what's being recorded here,

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- 1 I think that some of the language that Stephen 2 Brearey has used in describing how Eirian Powell and 3 Anne Martyn behaved in that meeting is at the very least 4 inappropriate.
 - Q. Well --
 - I -- I would accept that Eirian Powell put a number of points that would indicate why Lucy Letby might be more commonly either associated with these babies or --
- Q. 10 We can see what she said because there are some sentences or words here that have the hallmarks of 11 what she said in evidence and elsewhere: 12
 - "Absolutely no issues with nurse."
- 14 Yes, can you see that; it is about halfway down the 15 page?
- 16 Α. Yes.
- 17 "Circumstantial. One doctor also named across number of cases. Six babies Nurse Lucy Letby, sudden 18 19 deterioration."
- 20 Then at the bottom:
- 21 "Trained at Chester."
- 22 These were all words that Eirian Powell has used 23 elsewhere and she is coming out here, isn't she, and
- 24 saying there is absolutely no issues with Lucy Letby.
- It's all circumstantial, there is also a doctor 25 155

That's what's been reported there, yes. Α.

2 So questions about care being poorer at night 3 may be generic but, in this case, that issue has already 4 been looked at, hasn't it?

I am not sure that there was sufficient detail 5 6 in the Thematic Review to be able to say for sure. I am 7 aware that one of the actions coming out of the Thematic Review was that there was to be a further review by 8 Stephen Brearey and Eirian Powell into observations in 9 10 the time leading up to the collapses.

11 You see, Stephen Brearey's description of this meeting is that he was trying to get across concerns 12 about this connection between the strange timing of the 13 collapses and deaths which had changed since the nurse 14 had switched shifts, the fact that she was always on 15 16 duty when it happened, the fact these were sudden, 17 unexpected, unexplained collapses, for which no cause could be found on the Thematic Review and other reviews 18 19 and he says that, in effect, Eirian Powell argued the 20 case for Lucy Letby and that shifted or diverted the 21 decision making within the meeting away from looking at 22 those questions of sudden, unexpected, unexplained 23 collapses. 24

It's a fair description of what happened, isn't it, 25 that Eirian Powell came out fighting for Lucy Letby?

1 involved.

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Now, Dr Harkness who I think is the other doctor 2 3 who appears regularly, doesn't appear for all the cases 4 and he had left by this point. But here she is, Eirian 5 Powell, arguing the corner for Lucy Letby? 6

I think that she was simply countering some of 7 the points that had been made and Stephen Brearey highlighted the time frame of some of the collapses. He called out the fact that Lucy Letby was on duty more often than others but, certainly, my recollection is 10 that he is overstating the degree to which he presented 11 12 this data and how he presented it.

13 Certainly at the end of the meeting, he gave the 14 impression of being comfortable with the conversation that we had had, with the opportunity that he had had to 15 be listened to and that he agreed with what was decided, 16 17 was which -- which was that we would implement a much closer monitoring of babies who collapsed thereafter. 18

19 Q. But not a much closer monitoring of Lucy 20 Letby, was there?

21 Well, based on the conversation that we 22 would -- we had had, at that point, there did not appear 23 to be a basis for that.

24 Well, there was a reference to suggest there was more than enough in sudden, unexpected and 25

unexplained deaths, with a nurse present at all of them 1 2 and concerns being raised by a paediatrician, to warrant 3 some sort of safeguarding exercise?

I -- I'm not sure that the sudden and unexpected actually associated Letby present at all of those.

Well, it was. By this time, a table had been drawn up with Lucy Letby's name highlighted in red across it?

In terms of those babies, we had both indictment and non-indictment babies and, obviously, if one simply takes out the indictment babies one's presented with a very different picture.

Well, she was present for all of the collapses and unexplained and sudden collapses that were highlighted within the Thematic Review, and there was a concern being raised about her potential connection to this, not necessarily in terms of homicide but certainly in terms of competence. The effect here is really just to kick the can down the road, isn't it?

21 A. I'm sorry?

> Q. The effect is to kick the can down the road.

23 No safeguarding is put in place in respect of her

24 practice in any way, following this meeting?

No, I accept that safeguarding wasn't put in

1 the case.

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It was there to be found though, wasn't it? Q.

A.

Q. It was there to be found, the evidence, with investigation. You have already said the insulin results for F were there to be found?

Well, the insulin result was there dependent on a doctor doing the right thing with that result.

9 That, that had happened already. What I am talking about is steps that you could have taken, 10 further investigations, further scrutiny between 11

February and May 2016 could have highlighted the insulin 12

13 results could, indeed have brought in the stories of the

14 parents who had witnessed --

I would say that that is by no means likely. It was only after the police inquiry was instituted that, in fact, Dr ZA remembered that there might have been this result. I would suggest that the biggest missed opportunity there was actually in August 2015 20 when, having considered that insulin result, Dr ZA excluded accidental administration, actually considered

22 deliberate administration. 23 Q. We understand the point, Mr Harvey. It's been

24 made --

> A. Absolutely, but I think this needs to be clear 159

1 place.

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Q. And --

3 A. I don't believe that it was just kicking the 4 can down the road. We felt that we needed that monitoring of any further unexpected events. I believe 5 6 that there was one and that wasn't actually reported, 7 despite the action plan and the guidance that was coming 8 from this meeting.

> Q. If we --

10 Α. I would also comment with regard to the email that Stephen Brearey subsequently sent with regard to 11 how he viewed the meeting. 12

13 Sorry, could you repeat the last bit, sorry, 14 I didn't quite catch you -- oh, how he viewed the 15 meeting, thank you.

16 Can we come on to what happens after O and P 17 collapse, please. I think on behalf of the parents of O and P, they would regard the meeting in May 2016 as 18 19 an opportunity and a missed opportunity to avoid the 20 deaths of their sons. Would you accept that action 21 could have been taken between February and May 2016 to 22 prevent Lucy Letby causing harm to Babies O and P and 23 all those who fell after February 2016?

24 No, I -- I cannot accept that there was 25 sufficient in between February and May for that to be

1 because --

2 Can I come on to things, though, that you can give direct evidence about. Please, we do understand 4 the point about the insulin and Dr ZA.

5 Your reaction after being informed of the concerns 6 surrounding the death of Child O and Child P was that 7 the police should be called. That was your first 8 reaction upon seeing Dr Saladi's email, was that the police should be called? 9

Α. It was.

10

11 O. If we go to INQ0047571, and down on to page 2, please, we can see Dr Saladi's email here to you and to 12

13 Alison Kelly. Now, you must have read this in light of

14 the meeting in May 2016 and the information you had had

15 up until that point?

16 Α. Yes.

17 Q. If we go up a page, we can see Alison Kelly's email to you beginning "Hi lan": 18

19 "I am not at Execs this AM but have briefed Sian 20 fully. I have discussed reactions we are taking and I know we are commissioning an extra clinical review but 21 22 Sian and I did also discuss the police. I know this is 23 a big step but it's something we need to consider in

24 light of heightened concerns."

25 So Alison Kelly saying to you that she thought 160

- 1 a discussion regarding the police needed to take place.
- 2 Then Ian Harvey:
- 3 "I have already emailed Stephen to meet ahead of4 the Execs. I will keep you updated. My own feeling,
- 5 the police having been raised, I think we will have to."
- 6 In other words, "We will have to call the police"?
- A. Yes.
- 8 Q. If we then go on to the same day, you had
- 9 a meeting with Stephen Cross and, if we go to
- 10 INQ0003360, this is Stephen Cross' note but it is a note
- 11 of a meeting with you, 29 June. Now, at the bottom, it
- 12 says:
- 13 "Deaths of Triplets has raised concern. Nurse was
- 14 on duty at deaths. Sufficient level of concern that
- 15 illegal activity in neonates."
- 16 In the first paragraph at the bottom, it said.
- 17 "Advice: police need to be involved now."
- 18 At the end of the first paragraph.
- 19 Who is giving the advice that the police need to be
- 20 involved now; is that you or Stephen Cross?
- 21 A. I believe that the timing of that entry is
- 22 incorrect. I think this reflects me going to Stephen
- 23 Cross, having seen the copy of Dr Saladi's email, which
- 24 I think was timed on the email system a couple of
- 25 minutes after the time Stephen Cross has --
 - 161
- 1 then, where it says:
- 2 "Nurse was on duty at deaths. Sufficient level of
- 3 concern that illegal activity in neonatal."
- I mean, who is saying that; is that you or Stephen
- 5 Cross saying that?
- 6 A. I am unsure where that's come from.
- 7 Q. Well, given that you had emailed Alison Kelly
- 8 shortly before saying that you thought the police did
- 9 need to be called, your evidence to the Inquiry is you
- 10 thought then the police needed to be called, either this
- 11 is you advising Stephen Cross the police need to be
- 12 called or it is Stephen Cross agreeing with you that the
- 13 police need to be called?
- 14 A. I -- I'm unable to remember which way. All
- 15 I can say is that the earlier emails indicate that my
- 16 initial response was that we needed to speak to the
- 17 police.
- 18 Q. Yes, I mean there is no record of any
- 19 disagreement from Stephen Cross regarding this, so does
- 20 it follow that he agreed with you the police need to be
- 21 called, or are you saying that there was a dispute as to
- 22 whether the police needed to be called?
- 23 A. I -- I can't speak for Stephen Cross and
- 24 I can't recall the full detail of that conversation.
- 25 **Q.** Was it not a fairly uncommon conversation to 163

- 1 Q. Oh, yes, yes. So, I mean, it -- Dr Saladi's
- 2 email is 8.17 --

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- A. Yes.
 - Q. -- and this note is at 8.15 --
- 5 A. Yes
- 6 Q. -- and your email to Alison Kelly was at 8.31.
- 7 So let's put aside the precise time of maybe 8.19 that's
- 8 written on the note --
 - A. Yes.
- 10 Q. -- but it clearly is a note written fairly
- 11 soon after you have received Dr Saladi's email and you
- 12 have been to see Stephen Cross?
- 13 A. Yes, and my reading of that is that that is
- 14 from Dr Saladi's email.
- 15 Q. Sorry, could you explain that, please? So you
- 16 are saying that, where Stephen Cross has written,
- 17 "Ian Harvey neonatal issue. Emails from Consultants
- 18 escalating concerns. Email this AM from further
- 19 Consultant. Advice: police need to be involved now";
- 20 are you saying that's just a recital of what Dr Saladi
- 21 said in his email?
- 22 A. I -- I believe that is either that or that is
- 23 a reflection of what I had said and had indicated in the
- 24 email that I had sent to Alison Kelly.
 - Q. Well, what about the bit right at the end
 - 162
- 1 be having with a legal director?
 - A. Absolutely.
- 3 Q. Are you saying you don't recall anything about
- 4 this conversation?
- 5 A. I am saying that because these are events that
- 6 occurred eight years ago.
- 7 LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: Mr Baker, just before you
- 8 continue, we will need to take a break.
- 9 MR BAKER: Yes, of course.
- 10 LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: How much longer do you
- 11 think you have got? I am not going to suggest you do it
- 12 now, I just want to know.
- 13 MR BAKER: No. Let me come on to -- actually that
- 14 probably is a convenient moment. I am about to come on
- 15 to the next meeting.
- 16 LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: Very good. We will come
- 17 back at 3.50.
- 18 (3.34 pm)
- 19 (A short break)
- 20 (3.50 pm)
- 21 **LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL:** Mr Baker.
- 22 MR BAKER: Thank you, my Lady.
- 23 We had just dealt with discussions whereby it
- 24 appeared to have reached a point where you wanted to
- 25 call the police, Alison Kelly wanted to call the police,

and Stephen Cross, at least, appeared to agree to that 1 2 or acquiesced to it.

3 The next meeting on 29 June involves the 4 Consultants and now Tony Chambers, and it's INQ0003371.

You can see Tony Chambers, Alison Kelly, Ian Harvey and

6 then we have Stephen Brearey, Ravi Saladi and others.

Stephen Brearey's evidence is that when we went to the meeting with the Executives, the Executives were

looking for reasons to either not go to the police or to

10 defer the decision. Now, insofar as you were concerned

and insofar as Stephen Cross was concerned and insofar 11

as Alison Kelly was concerned, prior to this meeting you 12

had all seemingly come to the view that the police were 13

going to be called; what caused your change in mind? 14

I have read through these documents in detail,

I have tried to recall the conversations that went on

17 and I am unable to explain the change in approach.

Can I help you with it. If we begin with some of the background. We have Stephen Brearey here:

20 "Steve B, some PM reports but not all.

21 Inconclusive. Some not satisfactorily giving answers.

22 Inconsistent Datix reports."

23 A little further down the page:

24 "Unexpected collapses. Perhaps should have

25 a Datix. A lot of complexity around reporting."

1 forwards.

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Do you agree that that's closer from that note that this isn't just people saying she's always there when people collapse?

> A. Yes.

6 It's paediatricians saying, "There's something 7 more to this, there's something more unusual about

8 this"?

9 That is certainly something that comes out of A. 10 those notes.

Then we have the first statement from the 11 O.

Executives. "TC", Tony Chambers: 12 13

"Why did we call the police? If Twins/Triplets why 14 did the Trust take them on. Can we explore more before 15

16 It's Tony Chambers calming down the idea of going 17 to the police, isn't it? That's clear from the note?

18 I'm not sure that that reads as him calming down. I think --19

20 Q. I am not suggesting he was calm but I mean that's him raising the issue of why don't we defer 21 22 calling the police?

23 No, I think he is simply putting in 24 a challenge with regard to is there something that we need to explore before the police? He was asking those

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1 Further down the page:

2 "Pseudomonas grown from taps but not evident in

3 incidents."

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4 Then Ravi Jayaram:

"Entirely subjective staff member almost always 5

6 nurse in charge. Babies were stable then deteriorated.

7 Why always this nurse? Babies were unwell but getting

better. Babies not getting oxygen then crash. Babies 8

9 did not respond as they should."

Stephen Brearey:

11 "Disturbing thing twin survived and got better at

Arrowe Park. Babies coming back to Countess of Chester, 12

babies deteriorate. Nurse 7 out of 9 between 12 noon 13

and 4 am, and since then none." 14

15 On the following page:

16 "More than just an association with this nurse.

17 "Ravi: how? Cannula? Air embolism? Crystal ball?

Unquestionably got something going on in the Countess of 18

19 Chester but what?"

20 Then Saladi:

21 "Preterm babies. Two steps forward and one step

22 back. Don't suddenly deteriorate."

23 So here we have this sort of very clear expression

24 of something, more than just an association, quite

significant concerns by paediatricians being put

in the room whether the police was the next step, where

2 they -- did they have a degree of concern that it was

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4 I don't read that, knowing how Tony Chambers ran

5 his meetings and was keen to hear from everyone in the

6 meeting and give everyone the opportunity, I believe

7 that this was just a request to explore the full range

8 of the options. I don't believe that he was actually

9 specifically leaning towards --

10 He's the new person in the room. You had 11 talked about calling the police, Alison Kelly had talked

about calling the police, Dr Saladi had talked about 12

13 calling the police, and here we have Ravi Jayaram and

14 Stephen Brearey raising their concerns very clearly

about criminality. Tony Chambers is the new person in 15

the room here, and that's what changes the dynamic,

17 isn't it, that is why the police aren't called?

18 I -- I would simply say that he was exploring all the options and, as the Chief Executive, that's what 19 20 I would expect him to do.

21 Yes, and if we look at the reasons why the

22 police aren't called, or one of the reasons, on to

23 page 3:

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24 "Police consequences. Balance needed."

25 Is it the concern about the consequences of calling

the police, reputational harm, that is acting as the deterrent to doing it?

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- A. I don't believe that reputation was one of the consequences that was discussed and I believe that the consequences were with regard to the effect on the unit.
- Well, let's balance that. The effect on the unit, if Lucy Letby is still working there, and she was at this point, is she murders more babies; isn't that more serious?
 - A. Again, using hindsight, yes.
- Before I conclude, I mean, I would suggest on 11 behalf of the families that this sets the tone, this 12 marks the sea change between you wanting to call the 13 police and the police not being called, and you becoming 14 party to, a supporter of or at least acquiescent to that 15 16 decision. But that decision at that point not to call 17 the police you accept was wrong. The consequence is that it defers justice for the Families for another 18
- year; do you accept that? 20 A. I -- I accept, on the basis that I have 21 already said that I believe we should have been in touch 22 with the police earlier, that had the potential to delay 23 things, yes.
- 24 Finally, just to clarify a point. It was 25 implied in questions to Alison Kelly that Alison Kelly
- 1 Alison Kelly, who kept very good notes but that may have 2 been a feature of the circumstance of the meeting. To 3 my regret, I was a very poor note keeper, and I think 4 that's probably evident to the Inquiry, in comparison 5 with some of my colleagues.
 - Thank you. My Lady, it occurs to me I just need to go back, very briefly, to Mrs Hodkinson's note and then that is my final question.

9 If we go back, please, to INQ0015639, and to page 58, please, again, a point was made to Tony 10 Chambers about this meeting on 30 June -- you were 11 present, this is Sue Hodkinson's note of it -- that Tony 12 13 Chambers asked Stephen Brearey the question:

14 "If we remove Letby from the ward, will unit be 15 safe?"

16 He responded that the risk would be reduced. It was suggested to Tony Chambers that that meant that 17 Stephen Brearey didn't really believe that Lucy Letby 18

was behind the incidents. If you could look over, 19 20 please, to the right-hand side, right-hand column here,

I don't know if you recall the conversation but it 21

begins, "TC: direct LL removed. Unit safe?", and 22

23 Stephen Brearey is noted to answer, "Risk removed". Do

24 you recall that exchange?

I don't, no.

and Sian Williams might not have met with Mother C in 1

2 July 2016. Can I take you please to INQ0008969, and to

3 the next page, please.

4 This is a letter to you from Mother C in February

2017, raising her concerns. If we go on to the next

6 page, in the second paragraph she describes having read

7 about the article in the Chester Chronicle in July 2016

and then mentions that she met with Sian Williams and

Alison Kelly "when I turned up at the Bereavement 9

10 Office". So you agree that Mother C wrote to you in the

early part of 2017, recalling having met Sian Williams 11

and Alison Kelly in the Bereavement Office? 12

I -- I do on seeing this document, yes.

14 Yes. You know that there are no notes of the

meeting between Sian Williams, Alison Kelly and 15

16 Mother C, and it was suggested that that was unusual.

17 You agree that you met Mother C in 2017, don't you?

A.

19 Q. There are no notes of that meeting either, are

20 there?

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21 Α. There aren't, no.

22 Q. No. Is there any reason why notes weren't

23 being taken of meetings between Sian Williams, Alison

24 Kelly, you and parents?

25 No. I would say that it would be unusual for 170

1 No, so you can't say whether it was risk 2 reduced, according to Stephen Cross's notes, or risk 3 removed?

4 A. I'm sorry, I can't clarify that, no.

MR BAKER: Thank you.

6 Thank you, my Lady, I have no more questions.

7 LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: Thank you very much,

8 Mr Baker.

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9 Mr Kennedy?

Questions by MR KENNEDY

11 MR KENNEDY: Mr Harvey, I have some questions on

behalf of the Countess of Chester Trust. Can I just 12

13 pick matters up, on 29 June, where Mr Baker just left

14 them. At that stage, as you have just agreed with him,

your state of mind is, "We need to call the police". 15

You agree that the paediatricians in the meeting are 16

17 saying that there is something more than simple

commonality, and they are talking about criminal 18

activity as one explanation, agreed? 19

20 I -- I would need to see the notes in front of

21 me to remind me, I'm sorry.

22 Q. We can look at the notes again. It's

23 INQ0003371, but it's the note about air embolus; do you

24 remember that note?

25 Α. Yes.

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- 1 **Q.** I'm trying to move as quickly as I can through this, so that your counsel has an opportunity to ask you
- 3 questions, so if we don't need to revisit matters, then
- 4 that will help us. But it's that note towards the foot5 of the page.
- 6 Over on to the next page, where you see:
- 7 "Ravi: how? Cannula air embolism?"
- 8 We have looked at it on a number of occasions now.
- 9 The thrust was that they were concerned about
- 10 criminal activity?
- 11 A. I'm not sure that that was entirely clear as
- 12 criminal activity. Cannula air embolism can be
- 13 accidental as well as deliberate.
- 14 Q. Every message you had from the nursing team
- 15 was that Letby was a competent nurse, wasn't it?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. Right. So you had to have in mind the
- 18 possibility of criminal activity?
- 19 **A.** I would, in terms of what is most common,
- 20 irrespective of what might be said have competence as
- 21 an issue or a concern.
- 22 Q. Would you have also had in mind criminal
- 23 activity?
- 24 A. Yes
- 25 **Q.** Thank you. Your task and the Execs' generally 173
- 1 exclude the common things first.
- Q. Very well. Well, let's move on. Whether you
- 3 are trying to exclude the common things, you have to
- 4 have in mind the most serious?
- A. Yes.
- 6 Q. Okay. So when you are setting the question,
- 7 if I can put it like this, or formulating the
- 8 hypothesis, does it not have to be as follows: can
- 9 I confidently say that the paediatric Consultants'
- 10 concerns are misplaced?
- 11 A. I would -- I would say with retrospect, our
- 12 balance on that was incorrect.
- 13 **Q.** Do I take it from, from that, your answer,
- 14 that you agree that that is how the test should have
- 15 been formulated?
- 16 A. I have already agreed that my initial feelings
- 17 on this were the ones that I should have acted on.
- 18 Q. I'm not now concerned about simply whether the
- 19 police were called. This now builds into how you manage
- 20 things going forwards. You should have managed them
- 21 going forwards on the basis of asking yourself the
- 22 question: can I confidently exclude criminal activity,
- 23 is another way of formulating it?
- 24 A. I think our initial concern was: is the unit

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25 safe?

- 1 task was now to manage the risk, correct?
 - A. Yes.
- 3 Q. The impact of getting it wrong, given what was
- 4 being told to you and given your view, at least at that
- 5 stage of the police needing to be called, the impact of
- 6 getting it wrong was catastrophic, wasn't it?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. So when you formulated how it was you were to
- 9 test the hypothesis, you had to formulate it in such
- 10 a way that it was the most exacting question, didn't
- 11 you?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. That is consistent with medical practice: can
- 14 I exclude the most sinister diagnosis, rather than can
- 15 I include a less sinister one?
- 16 A. I'm not sure that you could apply that across
- 17 to making a medical diagnosis.
- 18 Q. All right. But it's a familiar test to
- 19 a doctor?
- 20 A. One is interested --
- 21 Q. A patient presents with a particular
- 22 condition. What you are looking to do is can I rule out
- 23 a sinister cause for that condition?
- 24 A. I would suggest that this is probably not
- 25 an appropriate analogy because one would be looking to
 - 174
- 1 Q. You are -- please, I am really short of time,
- 2 so if you could just answer my question. Looking
- 3 forwards, your question had to be, "However I formulate
- 4 it, can I confidently say that the paediatricians'
- 5 concerns are misplaced?"
- 6 **A.** I'm not sure I can answer that without putting
- 7 it as trying to understand the level of their concern.
 - Q. That may be part and parcel of the same?
- 9 **A**. Yes

- 10 Q. Of the same exercise but what you are trying
- 11 to do is confidently say that their concerns are
- 12 misplaced whether it's because of the level or because
- 13 of the evidence?
- 14 A. We are trying to confidently establish what is
- 15 fact, yes.
- 16 Q. All right. Now, again, trying to just cut
- 17 through this.
- 18 You agreed with Mr Skelton last night that the
- 19 Royal College of Paediatricians' report could not
- 20 exclude criminal activity?
- 21 A. I -- I agreed that it was unlikely that it
- 22 would, yes.
- 23 Q. Well, it couldn't do because it wasn't charged
- 24 with that task or, alternatively, they told you they
- 25 hadn't done that?

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- 1 A. Yes, that's correct.
- 2 Q. So, either way, it couldn't exclude criminal
- 3 activity?
- A. Yes.
- 5 Q. Likewise, again trying to cut through this,
- 6 Dr Hawdon couldn't exclude criminal activity?
- 7 A. Couldn't exclude but could identify --
- 8 Q. Right.
- 9 **A.** -- because --
- 10 Q. If she was --
- 11 **A.** -- at the end, at the trial, the prosecution
- 12 experts were able to identify matters based on the
- 13 Casenote Review. So that, whilst Dr Hawdon might not be
- 14 able to exclude, I believe that there was the potential
- 15 that she would be able to confirm.
- 16 Q. We can look at her letter but what she told
- 17 you was, within the time that was permitted to her and
- 18 that she could devote to the task, she simply couldn't
- 19 do it; that was the gist of her letter?
- 20 A. I think it was to the fact that it wouldn't be
- 21 as comprehensive.
- 22 Q. All right let me frame it another way: she
- 23 told you she hadn't done it?
- 24 A. She hadn't done it to the -- a level of
- 25 detail.

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- 1 of the questions we have been talk about, did it?
- A. No.
- 3 Q. Right. In those circumstances, if we now look
- 4 at the 10 January meeting, the extraordinary Board of
- 5 Directors meeting -- and I think now we probably do need
- 6 to bring up some documents. So can we start with
- 7 INQ0003239, and that's your presentation. Now, recall
- 8 this?
- A. Yes.
- 10 Q. This was circulated to the board, along with
- 11 the College report at the meeting; can we agree that?
- 12 **A.** I'm not sure of the timings that the documents
- 13 were circulated.
- 14 Q. If we go to the second page of this document,
- 15 we can see that you have dated it 10 January?
- 16 **A.** Yes.
- 17 Q. Now, unless you forward date documents, does
- 18 it look like this document was prepared and was
- 19 presented to the Board of Directors on 10 January?
- 20 A. It will -- it was presented on the day.
- 21 I can't say whether they actually had the opportunity to
- 22 see it before the meeting, which took part -- took place
- 23 late morning.
- 24 Q. Well, we can see the meeting was 11.00 am --
- 25 **A.** Yes.

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- 1 Q. All right. She hadn't done it to a level, put
- 2 it another way, where you could be confident that
- 3 criminal activity could be excluded?
 - A. No, which was why the reviews continued but
- 5 then nor did she identify anything where said there
- 6 were -- there was criminal activity.
 - Q. Well, now we are into evidence of absence
- 8 being absence of evidence, aren't we?
- 9 **A.** Yes.
- 10 Q. So it's, at best, neutral?
- 11 **A.** Yes
- 12 Q. Can we agree that?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. All right. The same of the Royal College?
- 15 **A**. Yes
- 16 Q. It doesn't, at best, from your perspective, it
- 17 doesn't give you the answer either way?
- 18 **A.** No.
- 19 Q. Okay. You had undertaken the local
- 20 investigation as part of the Silver Command, correct?
- 21 A. Undertaken a?
- 22 Q. A local investigation as part of the Silver
- 23 Command?
- 24 **A.** Yes
- Q. That too didn't give you the answer to either
 178
- 1 Q. -- from page 1. So the most opportunity they
- 2 would have had is, if they had been in the hospital
- 3 first thing, if it had been delivered to them then?
- A. Yes.
- 5 Q. All right. We can see also, if we go to the
- 6 second page, Mrs Killingback, that the report of the
- 7 Invited Review is attached?
- 8 **A.** Yes.
- 9 Q. That is the RCPCH Report?
- 10 **A.** I believe so, yes.
- 11 Q. All right. So they have got 30 pages odd of
- 12 the RCPCH, plus your document distilling it, correct?
 - A. Yes
- 14 Q. Okay. Now, you are inviting in this document
- 15 the Board to accept two things for my purposes: firstly
- 16 at A, to accept the RCPCH Report; and then at C you are
- 17 asking them to support the Executive Team in assisting
- 18 the staff member's return to work on the neonatal unit,
- 19 correct?

13

- 20 **A.** Yes.
- 21 Q. We can look if we need to, we know from the
- 22 board minutes that they accepted your recommendations,
 - 23 correct?

24

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- A. Yes
- Q. Okay. Given the significance of this, so

putting somebody who the paediatricians thought was
killing babies back on the neonatal unit, this was
a decision that required real care, wasn't it?

A. It is. My recollection of the meeting is that there -- there were questions with regard to the continuing reviews and my own feeling was that, until those reviews were completed, it wouldn't have been appropriate for Letby to return to the unit, irrespective of the recommendation there that has my name to it.

Q. That was your recommendation and it was that recommendation the board adopted, wasn't it?

A. It, it was. But, in the discussion, I believe there was discussion that actually that would not take place until the completion of all the reviews. The reviews outstanding, and despite that recommendation to support her return, that was pending the results of the outstanding Hawdon and McPartland review.

19 Q. Indeed, because, at that stage, you were20 chasing McPartland for her report, weren't you?

21 A. That's right.

Q. Okay, and you hadn't completed the exercisethat Dr Hawdon had suggested?

24 **A.** No.

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Q. Okay. You were aware at that stage that there

A. Yes.

Q. The board knew at least the first and second of those propositions, didn't they?

A. Yes.

Q. Okay. When you put it in your recommendation, we still have it on screen, the reviews having found no evidence of a single person's culpability, that went beyond, as we have just discussed, what could properly be concluded from any of your reviews, correct?

9 I think it was a much more complex picture. 10 Everyone -- a lot of people seemed to be looking at this 11 purely in terms of pre and post-Letby on the unit. The 12 13 fact is that a lot of other actions were put in place, 14 the unit was redesignated. The unit was subject to micromanagement. The unit was subject to much more 15 scrutiny. There was, in addition, a fortuitous 16 reduction in the level of activity. The unit was 17 extremely quiet. So there were potentially a whole 18 number of reasons why the picture would change. 19 20

20 **Q.** But you weren't in your recommendations here saying, "for a variety of reasons". You specifically refer to the reviews having found no evidence of a single person's culpability correct?

24 **A.** It is a limited report, yes.

25 **Q**. Sorry?

1 was there had been an unequivocal rise in mortality?

A. Yes.

Q. We take that from your local review where you4 say it's not down to chance; correct?

5 I don't think we ever actually said it's not 6 down to chance because I don't think we ever submitted 7 it to statistical analysis, which, by definition, would be required to say it was or wasn't chance. But it was 8 an increase that was sufficiently high that it was of 9 10 concern and certainly isn't something we would have subjected to statistical testing to assess whether it 11 was sufficient to need investigation. 12

13 **Q.** What you said in the review -- and this is 14 INQ0001888, I don't suggest we need to get it up. What 15 you said was:

"Fluctuation due to common cause variation cannot
account for the increased mortality seen in the neonatal
unit."

19 Common cause variation is effectively chance, isn't

20 it?

21 **A.** Yes.

Q. Okay. Also, in addition to the unequivocal
rise, you knew what the paediatricians' concerns were,
you knew that, since Letby had been off the unit, there

24 you know that, office Lotby flad boot on the drift, there

25 had been no deaths or -- well, no deaths, correct? 182

A. It is a limited report.

Q. I'm sorry, I am not hearing you: it is

3 a limited?

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A. The report is limited.

Q. Well, as we have agreed, the reports,

6 including your local report, doesn't establish that

7 proposition, does it?

8 A. It doesn't describe all the detail, no.

9 Q. It doesn't?

A. Describe all the detail.

11 Q. No, but you can't derive that conclusion from

12 the report; we have agreed that?

I would accept that.

14 **Q.** Okay. Now, as I said to you earlier, this was 15 the gravest decision or potentially the gravest decision 16 that the board were being asked to take, wasn't it?

17 **A.** Yes

Q. It required extreme care on your part, and
also on Mr Chambers' part, that the board were presented
with an accurate picture, agreed?

A. I believe they were being present with a picture that summed up the situation as it was at that time.

Q. What you said there, that the reviews havingfound no evidence of a single person's culpability, that

- 1 was not accurate, was it?
- 2 A. It was accurate insofar as those reports.
- 3 What it didn't do was, was call out the fact that that
- 4 potential was still there.
- 5 Well, it needed -- let's say it needed a full
- 6 and accurate explanation?
 - Α. Yes, and --
- 8 Q. All right, and --
- 9 Α. -- I think that was part of the conversation
- 10 that took part, actually, in the board around this
- paper, that we were waiting for that further information 11
- that was pending. 12
- 13 But you are talking in those terms, Q.
- Mr Chambers is talking in the terms of allegations being 14
- unsubstantiated. You are not, on the face of the 15
- 16 minutes, really allowing for any other possibilities,
- 17 are you?

- I believe, in terms of the discussion that we 18 A.
- 19 had, I was calling out that this paper was written as of
- that time but that it wasn't complete because the 20
- reviews weren't complete, and that there was more to 21
- 22 follow.

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- 23 Q. A full and accurate summary of the reviews
- would have been that they don't help us one way or 24
- another in determining whether there's been criminal
 - 185
- 1 is a single person's culpability, or responsibility on
- 2 the part of a single individual, correct?
 - As I have agreed, this is that picture at that
 - time. It doesn't describe the full picture but that
- 5 came up in the conversation around this report.
- 6 I am going to move on because of time. Just
- 7 to this: you have said on a couple of occasions in the
- 8 course of your evidence today that what you were
- endeavouring to do was to help build a consensus and, 9
- I take it, with the Consultant paediatricians as to the 10
- cause for the increased mortality, correct? 11
- 12 Α.
- 13 Q. You were then talking, I think, about probably
- 14 your ethos in 2017?
- 15 A.
- 16 Q. Yes. Do you agree that the wise thing to have
- done would have been to share your reviews at the 17
- earliest possible opportunity with the Consultant 18
- paediatricians because they could have assisted you as 19
- 20 to how you were interpreting them?
 - A. I -- I believe that I have already conceded
- 22 that point, yes.

21

- 23 All right. You had had the offer of help much
- earlier on from Dr Brearey when he had tried to give you
- some guidance as to what material should be provided to

- activity; that would have been a full and accurate 1
- 2 summary, wouldn't it?
- 3 A. I -- I wasn't in a position to say that, until
- I had received the full and final reports including 4
- those of Hawdon and of McPartland. 5
- 6 Well, you were reporting to the board on the
 - basis of the material available to you at the time?
- 8 A.

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- 9 Q. On the basis of that material, you could say
- 10 no more than, to be full and accurate, the reports don't
- assist us either way in determining whether there's been 11
- criminal activity? 12
- 13 The report is not accurate in those terms but Α.
- I believe that that was discussed as part of the 14
- discussion around this document. 15
- 16 Insofar as it was presented in that way, can
- 17 we agree that it was misleading?
- I would say that it told the picture as of 18
- 19 that time but it wasn't a complete picture. It wasn't
- 20 designed to mislead, I don't think it did mislead
- 21 because I believe that the conversation that went around
- 22 it in the meeting highlighted the gaps.
 - Last time: as at 10 January, a full and
- 24 accurate picture would have been the reviews that we
- have undertaken cannot tell us either way whether there
- 1 the College?
 - A.
- 3 Q. Okay. Do you appreciate now that the way
- 4 that, in fact, you handled it, which was to hold back
- 5 both reports until February and to present the outcome
- 6 of the board meeting on 11 January to the paediatricians
- 7 on 26 January, as something of a fait accompli, that was
- 8 never going to achieve that end of seeking a consensus? 9
 - Α. Sorry, I am struggling to follow that.
- 10 It's been a long day. The way that, in fact,
- 11 you approached it had the opposite effect of building
- consensus because you held back material from the 12
- 13 paediatricians?
- 14 I have, I've already agreed that we didn't
- 15 share it in a -- in as timely a fashion as we should,
- 16 yes.
- 17 Because when they saw it on 3 February, you
- had had Dr Hawdon's report since the end of October, 18
- correct? 19

24

- Initial, but then there was the ongoing work 20 Α.
- 21 that was required to fill in the gaps, yes.
- 22 Q. All right. But you had had the initial report
- 23 since the end of October --
 - Α.
- 25 Q. -- and similarly you had RCPCH's report for

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some months?

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A. Yes.

3 Q. To the extent that that approach soured 4 relations between the Executive Team and the paediatricians, that is something, presumably, that you 5 6 are apologetic for?

7 A. I believe that I have already apologised for 8 that.

Q. Very well.

10 A. I would also say that part of their anger was with regard to the perception that what they had said to the College wasn't reflected in the report, and I take 12 on board that the weight I put on the instructions that 13 we received with regard to sharing the full report or 14 the report for publication, probably aggravated that 15 16 situation.

17 Another part of their anger was that, when they read the RCPCH and Hawdon, they couldn't see the 18 19 justification for letting Letby back on to the unit?

20

21 MR KENNEDY: Okay. Mr Harvey, thank you.

22 My Lady, I will leave it there.

23 LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: Thank you very much

24 indeed, Mr Kennedy.

25 Ms Scolding?

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1 combined with gut feeling."

> So this is part and parcel of what you have called today the green text, and so the first question to ask you really is: this isn't the RCPCH saying there was just a gut feeling; this is the RCPCH reporting what they say the Consultants told them?

A. Yes.

But, of course, the Consultants didn't see Q. this part of the report, did they? Because this was the part of the report that was redacted, however you want

to call it? 11

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Α. That's correct.

13 Q. So, of course, they had no opportunity to then 14 look at that and say to the Royal College, "Actually,

you have got that wrong, that isn't what we said",

because, in fact, what the Consultants said to the Royal 16

17 College during the course of their review was pretty

much what they had said to you in June and July 2016, 18

they had gone through a series of factors, not just gut 19

20 feeling; that's right, isn't it?

> A. Yes.

Q. So, in fact, your actions prevented the

23 paediatricians being able to correct a factual

24 inaccuracy and, therefore, led to you and others relying

upon something which, in fact, wasn't right? 25

1 Mr Harvey, are you all right to continue?

Absolutely fine, my Lady, thank you.

Questions by MS SCOLDING

MS SCOLDING: Good afternoon, Mr Harvey. I ask 4 questions on behalf of the Royal College of Paediatrics 5 6 and Child Health.

I have just got two areas of questioning for you this afternoon, the first one which is about the

reference of which you made numerous references to it 9

10 first thing this morning, about the words "gut

11 feeling" --

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. -- saying in the RCPCH Report they had used 14 the terms "gut feeling" and that was what you went

towards. Now, can I ask you to have a quick look at the 15

16 only place I can find "gut feeling" appears in the

17 various drafts of the report. So this is the final

report and this is INQ0009618_0009, and it's the third 18

19 paragraph, once we have got it up.

20 Right. Now, this is the full report, and this is

21 the green text. So the only place I can find "gut

22 instinct" is, if you look, it's the penultimate

23 sentence:

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24 "The Consultants explained that their allegation was based on Nurse L being on shift on each occasion,

A. I'm sorry, my action ...?

Your actions in preventing the paediatricians

from seeing the full report therefore meant that you and

4 others proceeded upon an erroneous basis as to what the

5 Consultants had or hadn't said during the course of the

6 report; that's right, isn't it?

7 Well, my understanding is that I was following 8 the instructions received from the College with regard to how the report should be circulated. 9

10 Yes. Well, I am going to come on to that.

So if we then come on to the issue of what was or

12 wasn't confidential. So, if I can take you first to the

13 contract, so this was something that arrived on 2 August

14 2016. It's INQ0009597, and could we get up the second

page. Can we have a look at number 3 and number 4. So

you signed this document and sent it back to the 16

17 College, and this is the basis of the agreement to carry

18 out the review:

19 "Within the requirements of confidentiality under 20 the DPA, the review must proceed in an open manner

enabling discussions by the review team with all parties 21

22 involved."

23 Then number 4:

24 "The final review report should be made available

to those involved in the review." 25

So that's the starting point that you will have 1 2 seen or that you, one hopes, will have read carefully, 3 which is everybody who, in effect, contributes to the 4 review should have an opportunity to see it, it being identified that one of the purposes of the RCPCH Review, 5 6 as the reviewers in the evidence that they have given to 7 this Inquiry have said, was a sort of peer review 8 process which involved a degree of openness and candour 9 between all involved.

So that's the process. I then can't find any reference to confidentiality in any written information until the document that Ms Langdale showed you this morning, which is INQ0003403, page 1.

This is the email to the final draft report, if
I put it this way:

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"Please find attached draft report, it does provide some fairly strong recommendations, so I would be grateful if you and Alison can have a first read through then once you are happy, perhaps you can share it with a few selected people, including, I would guess, Ravi, Stephen and Eirian, to check for any obvious accuracy sees or misunderstandings."

23 Sue Eardley then says further down:

"She has put together a chronology. That could beAppendix 4 but it's fairly sensitive, might be of use to

...

what the Royal College would have assumed is that those particular Consultants would have seen the full copy, including the green text?

A. I'm not completely clear in my mind that that first report that was sent through included the green text.

Q. I think it all included the green text, unless and until you came to the final version, which we are going to come on to now, which is the email from Sue Eardley, which is INQ0009617.

So, again, can I just clarify there is nothing in there about you talking about confidentiality or discussing anything with Sue Eardley about confidentiality. So this is the letter which encloses the two reports, and I think Ms Eardley has already given evidence that, you know, with hindsight, she should not have produced two reports, she should only

have produced one. So let's leave that to one side:

"Please find attached a close out letter. I have
made the changes as suggested below in your email.
Please let me know if there is anything else that can
assist. There is one confidential, which includes the
HR issues and is our formal version, the other omits
these and would perhaps be suitable for wider
dissemination amongst those who contributed."

Jane and Martin [which is Jane Hawdon and MartinMcPartland] as they do the detailed reviews."

3 So, in fact, contrary to what you say, it is
4 absolutely clear -- and this report at this stage, this
5 was not a kind of dissemination version, green
6 text/non-green text, this was just one report, including
7 what then got excluded. This plainly identifies that it
8 should be seen by Ravi, Stephen and Eirian to check for
9 any obvious inaccuracies and misunderstanding.

So where does that say, "Please do not give Ravi and Stephen the redacted or the green text"?

12 A. I -- I believe that there was a further email13 that actually did say that.

Q. Right, let's get that further email up.
INQ0003132, which is your response to this email, sorry,
and then we will come to the further email. Could we go
to the second page, please. Right. This is your return
email, so Sue Eardley sends you the full report, if I am
going to put it that way, on 18 October. You, on

"Please find attached an amended report. It has
been seen by the Execs, Steve Brearey, Ravi Jayaram and
Anne Murphy, and their comments have been taken into

24 account."

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So, in fact, what you say to the Royal College and 194

Now, this email has to be seen in the light of the previous chain of emails we have seen, which is:

3 "Can you make sure that Ravi and Steve see the full4 version for factual accuracy."

You send the email back saying that they have seen it and there are these two reports. Nowhere in that email does it say we are telling you not to send it to anybody.

9 It says it perhaps would be suitable for wider
10 dissemination amongst those who contributed. Do you
11 think you could have misread that email as saying
12 something which it didn't mean to say or do you think
13 that it just suited your intentions to have it read that
14 the full report shouldn't be seen by the Consultants?

A. My reading of that email is that the
 confidential one, with the HR issues, was for very
 limited circulation and the formal version was the one
 for dissemination to those who had contributed. I --

19 **Q**. But --

25

A. -- still am not clear in my mind that the very
first report that we received actually included the
green text because there was no reference to that being
called out as something -- something different at that
point.

Q. Okay. But can I ask you to note the words, 196

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"would perhaps be suitable". So this isn't 1 2 an instruction or a direction. It's a suggestion;

3 that's right, isn't it?

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Α. Yes.

Okay. Can we then look at the letter which was attached to this email, which was the close out letter, that's INQ0009620. It's the second paragraph I would like you to look at, please, Mr Harvey:

9 "Aware of the personnel issues, we have provided 10 two reports, one including the full details and one omitting the confidential HR issues. To continue our 11 expectation of openness, I hope you will share the 12 dissemination copy of the report in confidence, if 13 necessary, with those who contributed. It remains your 14 report though and we will not distribute or share it 15 16 more widely without your permission."

So the point that Ms Langdale made to you 18 repeatedly this morning was in fact made to you by the 19 Royal College of Paediatrics at the time that the final report was sent to you, which was, "It is your report, 21 distribute it as you wish, we have tried to do something 22 to help you". In no way does it say there, there is any 23 injunction, prevention, direction or refusing to disclose the report to, in particular, those people who 24

had made their concerns known to you about Letby.

1 assumptions. You have just described an assumption. At 2 no point is there anything explicit and, given the 3 nature of the concerns that led to the invitation to 4 review, given the expertise of the team I would have 5 expected, if they anticipated that there was something 6 that serious, that it would be explicit.

And I find it very difficult to accept that the lay member, as an inactive barrister who contributes to NCAS and the NMC is talking in terms of vagueness, and this really didn't help us.

Okay. Well, you are perfectly entitled to your perspective on that. Obviously, the Royal College doesn't agree with that but that's -- but it doesn't really help answer the question that I asked, which was: there is nothing in this letter which identifies that you should be keeping HR matters in respect of Letby confidential to those who made their concerns known to

18 you? 19 Not, not explicitly no. The use of 20 "Confidential HR issues" would mean that I would be 21 seeking advice with regard to what we would do there.

22 MS SCOLDING: Yes. Thank you. I have no further 23 questions, thank you very much.

24 LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: Thank you very much 25 indeed, Ms Scolding.

I would say that the use of the phrase Α. "confidential HR issues" was something that might cause that thought in my mind. I accept that it was our

report. But, in considering the content, in considering 4

5 the recommendations, I was also mindful of those who 6 constituted the expert team that came to visit.

7 Yes. But you had already had a conversation with them, both on 2 September and then a letter had 8 9 been sent very quickly afterwards on 5 September, at 10 which they had said, "You need to get on with the disciplinary process", and Ms Langdale took you to those 11 various discussions this morning. 12

13 So you already were aware of the fact that the 14 Royal College had assumed that you would have been in the process of undertaking a disciplinary investigation, 15 16 which the witness, who have given evidence on behalf of 17 Royal College, Ms McLaughlan, said she would have assumed that meant that you would have called the 18 19 police. So surely it is in that context you have to 20 take it? Not, "We don't think that anyone should see 21 this", but maybe, "Not everyone who doesn't know what 22 already has been going on should see it"?

23 I would suggest that a lot of the 24 communications from the College and their report as well is couched in vague language. It is full of

Ms Blackwell?

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Questions by MS BLACKWELL

3 MS BLACKWELL: Mr Harvey, it's been put to you by 4 Counsel to the Inquiry as a fact that Child O and 5 Child P should never have died after the 11 May meeting 6 when Letby could have been off the ward and referred to 7 the police, and she put that allegation to you, the 8 implication being that you, as the Medical Director, are 9 responsible in part for that taking place.

10 It has also been alleged that you, as the Medical Director of the hospital were part of harbouring 11 a murderer, that's been put to you by Counsel to the 12 13 Inquiry. As this Inquiry is a search for the truth, 14 I want to take you through what evidence there is before

the Inquiry and that you would have known about in order 15 to see whether there is evidence in order to support 16

17 those allegations?

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Α. Yes.

Now, what lay behind the 11 May meeting was 19 20 the Thematic Review?

Yes. Α.

22 Q. So I would like to take you, first of all,

23 please, to the Thematic Review itself, the one that was

discussed during the course of the 11 May meeting, and

it's at INQ0003400. Now, as that's being brought up,

- 1 let's remind ourselves that the first copy of the
- 2 Thematic Review that you received from Dr Brearey was
- 3 sent to you, you having asked him for details of what
- 4 you believed was an external review --
- 5 A. That's correct.
- 6 Q. -- and he sent you the draft document on
- 7 15 February?
- 8 A. He did
- 9 **Q.** Yes. What we are looking at now is the final
- 10 document.

- 11 **A.** Yes.
 - Q. If we can look at page 2, please. We can see
- 13 that this is the document that was created following the
- 14 meeting on 8 February 2016. We see that at the foot of
- 15 the left-hand corner. The purpose of that review was to
- 16 deal with the higher than expected mortality rate on the
- 17 NNU during the course of 2015?
- 18 A. That's correct.
- 19 Q. Now, there were 10 cases considered during the
- 20 Thematic Review. Those cases were chosen by Dr Brearey,
- 21 weren't they?
- 22 A. They were.
- 23 Q. Yes. We can take these fairly quickly,
- 24 I hope. The first death was of a child on 5 April of
- 25 2015, a child that had severe hypoxic ischemic
 - 201
- 1 **Q.** Thank you. Child C, we can see had 2 a postmortem. We see what the results of that
- 3 postmortem were. The concern in relation to Child C was
- 4 that there was no cause for the deterioration
- 5 identified. Child D died on 22 June 2015. Again, there
- 6 was a postmortem with a reason given for death.
- 7 Can we go over the page, please. Child E died on
- 8 4 August 2015. There was no postmortem but there were
- 9 two causes of death given.
- 10 Then on 4 September 2015, another child died. It
- 11 appears that that child might have undergone a sudden
- 12 collapse. There was a postmortem, there were reasons
- 13 given for the death. Lucy Letby was on duty, we know
- 14 from the appendix, at the time of that collapse and
- 15 death.
- 16 Over the page, please. Thank you. 27 September
- 17 2015, another child died. There was a postmortem with
- 18 reasons given for the death. Lucy Letby was on duty
- 19 when that child collapsed and died.
- 20 Then Child I died on 23 October 2015. At the time
- 21 that this review took place, there was a postmortem
- 22 awaiting and we know that that was the child, Child I,
- 23 who had undergone multiple transfers.
- We can see that the information provided in this
- 25 review is that there were arrests on 13, 14 and
 - rests 203

- 1 encephalitis, a death for which Lucy Letby was not on
- 2 duty?

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- A. Yes.
 - Q. Yes. Over the page, please. There are then
- 5 three further deaths, we now know them as Child A
- 6 Child C and Child D. Of course, when this review was
- 7 prepared, they were referred to by their names, weren't
- 8 they?
 - A. That's correct, yes.
- 10 Q. Yes, and we know, as we can see, that Child A
- 11 died on 8 June 2015, there was a Coroner's postmortem,
- 12 which was unascertained. We know that the Inquest there
- 13 is listed as taking place on 23 March 2016 but, in fact,
- 14 we now know that was delayed until 10 October 2016.
 - A. That's correct.
- 16 Q. I will come back to that at the end of my
- 17 questions. We also know that Child A had a Twin,
- 18 Child B?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. It was suggested to you by Counsel to the
- 21 Inquiry that at no time did you suggest that Child B and
- 22 Child B's collapse should be looked at. Was that ever
- 23 something that Dr Brearey raised, as far as you are
- 24 aware?

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A. No, it wasn't.

202

- 15 October but with rapid improvement after each arrest.
- 2 Did it come to your attention as to whether or not
- 3 that improvement had taken place within the Countess of
- 4 Chester Hospital or outside of it?
 - A. That wasn't clear, no.
- 6 Q. Thank you. On 13 December 2015 another child
- 7 died. There was no postmortem but two reasons given for
- 8 the cause of death. Lucy Letby was on duty at the
- 9 relevant time.
- 10 Over the page, please, thank you. On 8 January
- 11 another child died. At the time that the review took
- 12 place, the postmortem was being awaited and there was
- 13 probable prematurity and sepsis being suggested.
- 14 In relation to this child, there had been what
- appears to be a sudden arrest on day two and Lucy Letbywas not on duty during the course of that arrest.
- 17 Now, if we go over to the next page, please. We
- 18 can see --
- 19 LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: I am very sorry to
- 20 interrupt you, Ms Blackwell, but I noticed when we were
- 21 looking at Child A -- it's nothing to do with you or the
- 22 witness -- the details of the mother's condition have
- 23 not been redacted. They should have been. I'm not sure
- 24 how that's happened, but that first line of the mother's
- 25 medical condition must not be reported.

1 MS BLACKWELL: Thank you very much, my Lady.

2 LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: Not at all.

3 MS BLACKWELL: These were the themes as we see them

in the final report, so the first, sudden deterioration,

the second, the timings of the arrests.

Now, in the draft report which you saw on

15 February, those -- well, sudden deterioration didn't

8 appear at all, the timing of the arrests was number 4 of

9 the themes identified, and top of the themes identified

10 was delayed cord clamping. That was the report that was

11 sent by Dr Brearey to the others who had been present

12 within the meeting in order for them to comment upon.

A. That's correct.

Q. Yes. We know that it was following

15 suggestions from Dr Subhedar that these amendments were

16 made?

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A. Yes

18 Q. But you didn't see the amended report until it

19 was sent to you via Alison Kelly on, I think, 17 March

20 2016 or thereabouts; is that right?

A. I think that's probably correct, yes.

22 Q. Yes. There were a series of outstanding

23 actions set out in a summary action plan. Could we go

24 to page 9, please. Thank you. Did you see these

25 actions set out in the action plan prior to the meeting 205

1 appreciate that or --

Q. Was deliberate harm obvious to you from the

3 face of the document?

A. It, it wasn't either in terms of the overall

5 tone of the document, nor was it specifically called

6 out.

Q. Could we have up please the email that you

received from Alison Kelly on 6 May. It's INQ0107818.

9 It has been suggested to you that when you read this

10 email from Alison Kelly, it must have been obvious to

11 you what she meant when she suggested that she had some

12 alarm, and I think it's at page 2, please.

If we look at the email on 4 May from Dr Brearey.

14 You have already been taken to this today:

15 "There is a nurse on unit who has been present for

16 quite a few of the deaths. Eirian has sensibly put her

17 on day shifts", and he talks about the pressure on

18 staffing numbers.

Was that brought to your attention?

20 A. Was I -- no, at that point, I wasn't on the

21 circulation list.

22 Q. Can we go back to page 1, please. At the

23 bottom of the page, we can see that Alison Kelly,

24 I think, has forwarded that email on to you?

25 A. That's correct.

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1 on 11 May?

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A. I believe they were attached, yes.

Q. Thank you. If we could just go back to

page 7, please, we can see that one of the actions at

5 page 7 was that Stephen Brearey and Eirian Powell were

6 to review all the cases focusing on nursing observations

7 in the four hours before the arrests. Were you aware

8 that that was an action that had been set out and was

9 being undertaken?

A. When I received the final version of this.

11 yes.

10

12 Q. Right. Thank you. Now, you understood when

13 you read the Thematic Review, going into the meeting on

14 11 May, that there were problems on the ward; is that

15 right?

16 A. Yes. Primarily concern about an increased

17 number of deaths.

18 Q. It's been suggested to you today that it must

19 have been obvious to you, given the sudden deterioration

20 as we see it under the themes identified, and the

21 timings of arrests, that deliberate harm was being

22 suggested both on the face of the document and later in

23 the meeting of 11 May, which we will come to; is that

24 right?

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A. Sorry, is that right in terms of I would

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Q. She has said:

"Please see Steve's comments below which alarmed

3 me."

4 It was that to which you were taken, I think, by

5 Mr Baker. Your response, which you weren't taken to,

6 later on that day appears above it:

7 "I see what you mean, although perhaps he just

meant that he was concerned for her. I am fine to meet

9 for this next Wednesday."

A. Yes.

11 Q. So what was your take on what was being

12 suggested?

A. My take from the description of her having

14 been sensibly removed, together with just the expression

15 of concern with regard to staffing, was that this had

16 been a supported move. My interpretation was that

17 Dr Brearey supported that move but was concerned about

18 how that shift of that member of staff was going to

19 affect the staffing balance on the unit.

20 Q. Thank you. Mr Baker also questioned you about

21 the request for a meeting from Dr Brearey?

22 **A**. Yes

23 Q. You know that his evidence to the Inquiry was

24 that, soon after completing the Thematic Review, he was

5 keen to meet with you and had asked for an urgent

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- 1 meeting?
- A. That's correct.
- 3 Q. Could we have up on screen, please,
- 4 INQ0038966? It was suggested to you that there must
- 5 have been a conversation or another email that had gone
- 6 between you and Dr Brearey because, further on down the
- 7 line, you had made it clear that he had made a request
- 8 of you that the Thematic Review be aligned with the
- 9 obstetric review?
- 10 **A.** Yes.
- 11 Q. Yes. Now, if we look at the middle of that
- 12 page, we can see on 15 February you are emailing
- 13 Dr Brearey in these terms:
- 14 "That's helpful. I note that you state
- 15 an obstetric thematic review did not identify any common
- 16 themes or identifiers that might be responsible for the
- 17 rising mortality in 2015 and now you have carried out
- 18 a review, where do the two get joined up?"
- 19 **A.** Yes.
- 20 Q. Yes. We can see his response to you at the
- 21 top of that page:
- 22 "They will get joined up at the Women and
- 23 Children's Governance Board. It's not easy working
- 24 across Urgent and Planned Care Divisions. I have copied
- 25 this into Jo Davies for her info."
 - 209
- 1 following that meeting in which he referred to it as
- 2 a helpful meeting and he was grateful for the work that
- 3 had been done and for the actions that were flowing from
- 4 that. And did you take that on face value?
- A. Absolutely.
- 6 Q. Now, one of the additional matters that was
- 7 set out in that email is -- and of course it was sent to
- 8 his fellow clinicians, was this instruction: if you do
- 9 come across a baby who deteriorates suddenly or
- 10 unexpectedly or needs resuscitation on the NNU, please
- 11 can you let me and Eirian know?
- 12 **A.** Yes
- 13 **Q.** You were aware of that?
- 14 A. That was one of the action plans from the
- 15 meeting.
- 16 Q. So between 11 May and 27 June did anybody any
- 17 of the clinicians, including Dr Brearey and Dr Jayaram,
- 18 bring anything to your attention?
- 19 A. No, they didn't.
- 20 **Q.** No. Not the deterioration (redacted) of
- 21 Child N on 15 June of 2016?
- 22 **A**. No
- 23 Q. No. As you have told the Inquiry, the first
- 24 you know you knew of the deaths of O and P was on
- 25 27 June?

- A. Yes.
- 2 Q. Which would appear to be the missing email, so
- 3 far as that piece of the jigsaw is concerned?
 - A. That would appear to fill in the gap.
 - Q. Yes. There is no request for an urgent
- 6 meeting is there?
- 7 **A.** No.
- 8 Q. Did he ever make one of you?
- 9 **A.** No.
- 10 Q. Thank you, we can take that down, please. Now
- 11 the meeting itself on 11 May, we have looked at the
- 12 notes; I don't intend to take you back to them. But
- 13 just to confirm your recollection of what was being said
- 14 there.
- 15 In terms of anything that Dr Brearey might have
- 16 said, did he provide to you any information over and
- 17 above what we have just seen on the face of the written
- 18 document?
- 19 A. No. he didn't.
- 20 **Q.** Did he challenge Eirian Powell and Anne Murphy
- 21 when they spoke in terms that the Inquiry has heard that
- 22 we see in their written note which they brought to the
- 23 meeting?

24

- A. No, he didn't.
- 25 **Q.** Right. We have seen the email that he sent
 - A. Yes, that's correct.
- 2 Q. I am not going to take you again to the
- 3 meeting notes of the 29 June. You have already given
- 4 your evidence as to what you took Dr Jayaram to mean
- 5 when he posed the question:
- 6 "How? Cannula? Air embolism? Crystal ball?
- 7 Unquestionably got something going on in the Countess of
- 8 Chester but what?"
- 9 You took that to mean either a deliberate harm or
- 10 a competency issue?
- 11 **A.** Yes.
- 12 Q. Yes. You have already been taken to the
- 13 comments made by Tony Chambers in the middle of that
- 14 page. I suggest in accordance with the evidence he's
- 15 given to the Inquiry that the note is wrong and that it
- 16 should be: why did we not call the police?
- 17 **A.** Yes.
- 18 Q. Of course you have been taken to the fact that
- 19 Dr Brearey's response to that is can we move the member
- 20 of staff? If no, then we should go to the police.
- 21 And Dr Jayaram's response:
- 22 "Why not earlier, call the police: reviews."
 - 23 A. Yes.
 - 24 Q. Is that your level of knowledge, that there
- 25 had been reviews undertaken on the ward, including

- 1 Dr Subhedar who was an outside external Consultant and
- 2 that's why there hadn't been a decision thus far to go
- 3 to the police?

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- A. Yes, that's correct.
- 5 Q. There was a meeting the following day on
- 6 30 June, again I am not going to take you again to
- 7 the -- to the record that we have had up twice, possibly
- 8 three times today.
- 9 Do you recollect whether or not when Tony Chambers
- 10 suggested if the nurse be removed, the deaths would
- 11 stop, the response from Dr Brearey was either: risk
- 12 would be reduced or risk would be removed?
 - A. I can't recall which answer was given.
- 14 Q. Do you accept that by the end of the meeting
- 15 on 30 June there was at least the prospect in your mind
- 16 that deliberate harm might have been being caused?
- 17 **A.** Yes.
- 18 Q. Were there other matters that were also within
- 19 your mind as the possible cause of the increased
- 20 mortality?
- 21 A. Absolutely. Common -- common things are
- 22 common and one is going to be concerned about quality of
- 23 care, be that collective, be that individual and the
- 24 effect that that would have on the safety and the level
- 25 of care that is delivered.

213

- 1 contacted if only to provide an oversight to the other
- 2 work that you were doing?
- A. That's correct.
- 4 Q. Does that remain your position?
- 5 A. It does, yes.
- 6 Q. Thank you.
- 7 My learned friend Ms Scolding has asked you about
- 8 the RCPCH Report and given the answers that you have
- 9 provided to her questions, I don't seek to ask you
- 10 anything further about that.
- 11 But it was suggested to you that only -- and this
- 12 was by Counsel to the Inquiry, not Ms Scolding, that
- 13 only the police could provide independent expert
- 14 evidence.
- 15 Do you agree with that statement?
- 16 A. No, I don't. Ultimately the police will rely
- 17 on clinical experts to provide that evidence. I'm aware
- 18 of the criticism of relying on Dr Hawdon, but I would
- 19 point out that actually the evidence presented at trial
- 20 was coming from clinical experts based on Casenote
- 21 Reviews and those experts found sufficient evidence for
- 22 her to be found guilty.
- 23 Q. I think that was what you were trying to say
- 24 when you were prevented from giving a complete answer to
- 25 a question that was posed by Mr Baker; is that right?

- 1 Q. So when it was suggested to you this morning
- by Counsel to the Inquiry that you should get off the
- 3 word "association" and that what was being said loud and
- 4 clear was deliberate harm and murder, is that a fair
- 5 reflection of your memory of that meeting?
- 6 A. No. It -- it doesn't reflect what I heard
- 7 from what was a very wide-ranging and I believe very
- 8 honest conversation amongst all those present.
- 9 Q. When it was put to you by Counsel to the
- 10 Inquiry that at the end of the 30 June meeting there was
- 11 no substance in saying that it was only a possibility of
- 12 there being deliberate harm, does that reflect your
- 13 memory of the meeting?
- 14 A. That it was only a possibility?
- 15 **Q.** That it was --
- 16 **A.** Yes.
- 17 Q. -- something more than a possibility?
- 18 **A**. No
- 19 Q. There was no substance in saying it was only
- 20 a possibility?

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- A. No, no.
- 22 Q. You have given evidence today about the Silver
- 23 Command that was set up on 7 and 8 July and you have
- 24 told the Inquiry that you regret that you did not stick
- 25 with your initial view that the police should be
 - 214
 - A. That's correct.
- 2 Q. Yes, thank you.
- 3 It was also suggested to you by Counsel to the
- 4 Inquiry that Dr Subhedar in his letter to you very
- 5 clearly indicated that you should go to the police.
- 6 Now, could we have a look at that letter please.
- 7 It is an email at INQ0006890 and it's page 188.
- 8 **LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL**: Choose your moment for 9 a break.
- 10 MS BLACKWELL: I have nearly finished, my Lady.
- 11 LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: Very good.
- 12 MS BLACKWELL: If we just take a moment to look at
- 13 the various points made by Dr Subhedar in this letter.
- 14 He talks about the Terms of Reference not being clear,
- 15 his own interpretation of the 13 deaths, he's broadly in
- agreement with the recommendation of Dr Hawdon. Hequestions the fifth recommendation on the basis of her
- questions the little recommendation on the basis of he
- 18 review.
- 19 He adds an additional seven cases and he says:
- 20 "I would like to make one further observation in
- 21 relation to the RCPCH Report and recommendations. Many
- 22 of them relate to governance arrangements."
- 23 He says that those are matters which are common,
- 24 not just at the Countess of Chester Hospital and he
- 5 hopes that the letter is helpful and that he would like

to share his findings with Stephen Brearey. 1

2 Did you read anything in that letter as being 3 a very clear indication that you should go to the 4 police?

> No, I didn't. Α.

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Thank you.

7 The final matter that I would like to ask you about 8 is Child A. Child A, as we know, had an Inquest 9 eventually on 10 October 2016. This Inquiry has heard 10 from Dr Jayaram who gave evidence to the Coroner and indeed you were asked questions yesterday by Mr Skelton 11

Dr Jayaram told this Inquiry that he didn't mention to the Coroner anything about concerns that by then were being held that there was a possibility at least of deliberate harm at the Countess of Chester Hospital.

about the evidence that Dr Jayaram gave to the Coroner.

17 He gave evidence to the Inquiry that rather than making anything explicit to the Coroner, he laid what he 18

19 described as "breadcrumbs":

20 "I was trying to sort of throw as many breadcrumbs 21 as possible for the Coroner to pick up without 22 explicitly saying what the suspicion was. I appreciate 23 [he told the Inquiry] that this was the wrong judgement", given that Baby A's parents were sitting

10 feet away and that he had failed in his duty of

-- in what had gone on.

So what do you say, Mr Harvey, was the topic of the conversation between yourself and the two Coroners at that meeting in February of 2017?

The topic of conversation was with regard to the events surrounding the paediatricians writing their letter to Tony Chambers requesting that we approach and spoke with the Coroner to investigate with him whether he would consider reopening any of the cases or undertake further investigation.

By that very nature, we would have to explain and provide documentation to support why they had written 12 that later -- letter and why we were requesting that 13 14 meeting with the Coroner.

15 Is there any doubt in your mind that that conversation took place? 16

Absolutely not.

17 18 MR BAKER: Thank you, my Lady. That is all I have. LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: Thank you very much, 19 20 Ms Blackwell.

21 Further questions by MS LANGDALE 22 MS LANGDALE: My Lady there is one document 23 I should have put, if I can introduce that.

24 LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: Yes, of course. Just let 25 Ms Blackwell get to her place. 219

1 candour.

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Now, you were asked by Mr Skelton whether or not 2 you thought that that was adequate for somebody to on 3

4 oath give that evidence?

A.

6 Q. What was your response to this Inquiry?

7 Α. I believe my response was that that was wholly inadequate. 8

9 It was suggested to you that you may have in 10 some way interfered with the statements that were provided to the Coroner. Did you do that? 11

> A. I didn't.

13 Q. It has also been suggested that you did not 14 bring to the attention of either the Coroner or the

Assistant Coroner the concerns of the Consultants. 15

16 Now, in answer to questions from Counsel to the 17 Inquiry today, it has been confirmed that in fact what

had been provided to the Coroner in written form was the 18

19 letter from the Consultants, Dr Hawdon's report and also

20 the green text from the RCPCH Report?

A. That's correct.

22 Q. That is the green text of course which sets 23 out the allegations that Nurse Letby had been involved

24 in some way --

> Α. Yes, that's correct.

> > 218

1 MS LANGDALE: Mr Harvey, can we have a look please

2 INQ0014405, page 1. It is a document I should have

3 referred you to earlier. It relates to the CQC.

4 If we see it, it's reflection of a CQC document 5 17 February 2017, "Strategic update from the Trust." Do 6 you see that in box 3?

Α.

Q. Does that reflect your meeting and update in

February 2017 with the CQC? (Pause) 9 10 Α. I -- I believe so, yes.

11 O. The CQC say they didn't receive the Thematic

Review report, you say you sent them -- you said in 12

13 evidence you say you sent the Thematic Review to the

14 CQC, but in your statement you said you couldn't

recollect. Do you know now whether you sent the 15

Thematic Review report and if so, when? 16

17 I'm -- I'm basing that on the fact that

in February 2016, in the email that I sent to Stephen

Brearey requesting a copy of the thematic or asking if 19

20 the review was available.

21 Q. I don't think it was available then to you.

22 We have heard?

23 He sent me a draft copy but that was very specifically with regard to the forthcoming CQC visit

and I haven't seen an email but in doing that

- specifically, I am sure that on receipt of that, I would
 have forwarded it to whoever was responsible for sending
 the documentation through to the CQC ahead of their
- the documentation through to the CQC ahead of thevisit.
 - Q. We will follow that up, Mr Harvey. It looks like the CQC may have had the Brigham review but not the
 - Thematic Review and the minutes may have been attached
- 8 to Dr Brearey's email, you had asked for it, but from
- 9 what your counsel says today you had this in March
- 10 I think yourself, but we will follow that up in any
- 11 event. You didn't recollect in your statement and you
- 12 don't have a firm memory; we can follow the paper trail?
- 13 A. I -- I -- I can't -- I can't recollect.
- 14 I would have to rely on the paper trial, but I am simply
- 15 surmising based on the fact that I had very specifically
- 16 asked him for that with the forthcoming CQC visit, that
- 17 having received that from him that would have been
- 18 forwarded to the CQC for consideration during their
- 19 visit.

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- 20 **MS LANGDALE:** Thank you. Those are my questions.
- 21 Questions by LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL
 - LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: Thank you, Ms Langdale.
- 23 Just one or two from me, if I may, Mr Harvey.
- 24 A. Yes, my Lady.
- 25 **LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL:** First of all, one of the
- that I saw in my job and from the publications and thedata that we get from NHS England.
 - LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: Thank you. That is not something, I don't think you mentioned, in any of the meetings, or "That is nothing to worry about, it's to be expected". I don't think it is.
- 7 **A.** I'm not sure I would describe it as to be 8 expected but it is a factor that one recognises, yes. 9 **LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL:** Yes. So just so
- 10 I understand your thinking. You weren't discounting it but you were saying that you need to bear in mind this particular factor?
- 13 **A.** I wasn't discounting it but there was
 - potentially another factor that would play into it, yes.

 LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: Thank you. Then I just
- LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: Thank you. Then I just
 wanted to ask you a little bit about the GMC --
- 17 **A.** Yes
- 18 LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: -- because you made it
 19 very clear to us that the experience of a doctor even
- 20 just receiving a letter from the GMC --
- 21 **A.** Yes
- 22 LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: -- can be extremely
- 23 damaging, even just the first letter?
- 24 **A.** I -- I would describe it, in some cases, as 25 devastating.

- 1 things you have been asked to comment on by various
- 2 people at various stages was the pattern of deaths that
- 3 are picked up in the Thematic Review occurring between
- 4 12 o'clock at night and 4 o'clock in the morning.
 - A. Yes.
- 6 LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: You said that -- well, you
 - referred I think to an Imperial College paper,
- 8 a research paper. You did refer to an Imperial College
- 9 paper.

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- 10 A. I did, that paper was actually very
- 11 specifically with regard to increased mortality at the
- 12 weekend.
 - LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: Yes.
- 14 A. But it is accepted that the risk is also
- 15 greater at night. That almost certainly reflects
- 16 different staffing levels.
- 17 LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: Just before you continue,
- 18 because the reference you gave us yesterday was to the
- 19 Imperial College paper, which, as you rightly say, deals
- 20 with weekends.
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: You say it's generally
- 23 accepted and that's based on what?
- 24 A. That is based on clinical experience,
- 25 experience of the patterns of mortality in other groups
- 1 LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: Devastating, yes. Can you
- 2 offer any thoughts as to how we have got to a situation
- 3 where a first letter from a regulator can have that
- 4 effect?

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- A. I had cause to complain to the GMC on a number
- 6 of occasions because they gave no thought to how or when
- 7 they sent their letters out.
 - LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: You mentioned a weekend,
- 9 I think, didn't you, sent on a Friday.
- 10 A. That's right. I would get doctors contacting
- 11 me late on a Friday night or at the weekend because they
- 12 just opened the letter.
- 13 The GMC in its letter will often offer -- and
- 14 obviously I am now speaking of practice six years ago --
- 15 **LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL:** Some years ago, yes.
 - A. -- will offer areas of support but, at the
- 17 weekend, those areas of support aren't available and I'm
- 18 aware the GMC have done a lot of work because of the
- 19 recognition of the increased rate of suicide amongst
- 20 doctors who are under investigation. But just simply
- 21 getting that letter is sufficient to cause a huge amount
- 22 of anxiety to not every doctor but to -- to most,
- 23 I would suggest.
- 24 LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: Because one of the things
- 25 that's very striking from the evidence, and it's been

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said to you is, well, the evidence about fear --1

2 Α. Yes

LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: -- in various contexts but 3 4 clearly fear about what will happen with the GMC. That 5 seems to me to be a theme.

6 Absolutely. And there will be word of mouth 7 amongst the medical body with regard to the -- what those who have been through the process have actually 8 9 gone through. It was, for that very reason, that I was 10 keen to do everything that I could to avoid that happening to those doctors to whom I could see no reason 11 why they -- they should be referred.

12 13 LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: Yes. Thank you. I am not going to ask you about the detail of that. It was 14 rather the sort of broader picture. Thank you very 15 16 much. 17

So is this a fair summary: by January 2017, the doctors have given their evidence and I can make my 18 19 decision about the effect upon them but Lucy Letby was 20 writing to you directly --

21 A. Yes.

22 LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: -- with a number of 23 requests, presumably with which she hoped you might 24 comply. 25

A. Yes.

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1 responded and I certainly wouldn't have forwarded any of 2 the information that she was requesting.

LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: No, you have made that 3 4 quite clear.

A. No.

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LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: One last thing, and I'm 6 7 afraid I don't have an absolutely clear recollection of 8 the name of the witness, so I'm sorry about that,

9 somebody else might know it, but when the CQC were in,

in February 2016 --10

> Α. Yes

12 LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: -- one of the -- I think 13 she was a Specialist Adviser, rather than an inspector

14 but she was overseeing a focus group with the

Consultants, not the paediatric Consultants, the 15

Consultants generally --16

Α.

17 Yes 18 LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: -- and a reasonably large number of the Consultants turned up, and she doesn't 19 20 have many notes but she had a note in her diary which referred to the Consultants complaining about bullying 21 22 of the Consultants by the medical management and she 23 said that she had come immediately to you to talk about 24 that; do you have any memory of that? 25

I have no recollection of a conversation to 227

LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: Did it occur to you, and 1

I appreciate you don't remember the email, now you have

had a chance to see it several times, I am sure, in the 3

4 preparation for this Inquiry.

Yes

6 LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: But it appears from it, 7 doesn't it, that Karen Rees, who was the Divisional

Director of nursing, had given her information that she

had received from a nurse about what a doctor had said 9

10 in a meeting?

11 Α.

LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: That's what she was 12

13 wanting to get to the bottom of?

14 Yes, that's correct.

LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: Did it occur to you that

16 that had any echoes of what had happened with the

17 grievance, that there had been a sort of conduit and

then a grievance from Letby about something that had 18

19 been said?

20 I saw it as an extension of that existing Α.

21 situation. As I think I said, I was uncomfortable with

22 that email from the tone and the content. I can't say

23 what I did with it but I am sure that I would have

escalated it to either Alison Kelly or Sue Hodkinson in 24

those circumstances. I certainly wouldn't have

226

1 that effect at all.

LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: What would you have 2 3 thought had she come to you with that information?

4 Well, my initial reaction would have been huge

5 concern. That wasn't how I viewed the relationship that

6 we had with the Consultant body, and I would have taken

7 steps to -- to investigate it further. In the first

8 instance, I would probably have approached Dr Jameson as

the Chair of the Medical Staff Committee --9

10 LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: Staff-Side, yes.

11 -- and Dr Tighe, as the (unclear) BMA Local

Negotiating Committee and probably also my senior 12

medical management team, the Divisional Medical 13

14 Directors. I have to say, I'm surprised that that

assertion was made because it was contrary to 15

an independent, validated medical engagement survey that 16

we had undertaken, I believe, in 2015, which actually 17

scored highly in terms of engagement with the Consultant 18

19 bodv.

20 LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: All right. Well, thank

21 you. That is -- sorry, did you want to say something

22 else?

23 Well, I was just going to say that, in turn,

24 I suppose, had they reported that to me, would have

actually caused even heightened concern because

1	something had obviously changed in a very short period.	INDEX	
2	LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: Yes, thank you.	MR IAN HARVEY (continued)	1
3	Does anybody want to correct anything?	Questions by MS LANGDALE (continued)	1
4	Good. Well, it's very late but it's not as late as	Questions by MR BAKER13	37
5	it might have been, which is scant consolation but thank	Questions by MR KENNEDY	72
6	you very much indeed, Mr Harvey. You are free to go.	Questions by MS SCOLDING 19	90
7	A. Thank you.	Questions by MS BLACKWELL	00
8	LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: We will rise and start	Further questions by MS LANGDALE	19
9	again 10.00 Monday morning.	Questions by LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL 22	21
10	(5.25 pm)		
11	(The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am,		
12	on Monday, 2 December 2024)		
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