1	Friday, 6 December 2024
2	(9.59 am)
3	LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: Ms Langdale.
4	MS LANGDALE: My Lady, may I call Mr Rheinberg.
5	LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: Mr Rheinberg, do come
6	forward.
7	MR NICHOLAS RHEINBERG (sworn)
8	Questions by MS LANGDALE
9	LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: Do sit down.
10	A. Thank you.
11	MS LANGDALE: Mr Rheinberg, you prepared
12	a statement for the Inquiry dated 11 April 2024.
13	Can you confirm that the contents are true and
14	accurate as far as you are concerned?
15	A. Yes, I confirm that.
16	<b>Q.</b> You tell us you qualified as a solicitor in
17	1974 working as a partner in a local solicitors'
18	practice. You, in February 1992, were appointed Coroner
19	for East Somerset as a part-time post.
20	In July 1999, appointed to the full time post of
21	Coroner for Cheshire acquiring the title Senior Coroner
22	when the law changed in July 2013 with the coming into
23	force of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009.
24	Can you tell us, Mr Rheinberg, and you expand it
25	from paragraph 5 onwards, the Coroner's relationship
1	deaths where there was a suspicion of criminality in
2	relation to the deaths."
3	You continue further down:
4	" indeed, in an obviously suspicious case it
5	would often be the police who contacted me asking me to
6	order a forensic postmortem examination."
7	A. Yes. Coroners take a more active part than
8	perhaps is generally known in relation to suspicious
9	deaths.
10	So although we see on television the police
11	ordering a pathologist and running the show, as it were,
12	in fact the permission has to come from the Coroner
13	because the Coroner has custody of of the deceased's
14	body and it's only by the Coroner's authority that
15	a postmortem examination can take place.
16	When there are suspicious circumstances, it would
17	not be appropriate for a general pathologist to carry
18	out a postmortem examination, instead appropriate to
19	employ one of the fully trained forensic pathologists,
20	I think there are about 35 currently in the country.
21	<b>Q.</b> So where there is suspicious circumstances, or
22	you are made aware of them, where children are
23	concerned, what's the difference between a postmortem
24	examination where there's no suspicion and the one that
25	you would order if there was suspicion? What do you
	3

nquir	y 6 December 2024
1	with the police?
2	<b>A.</b> Yes. Complicated relationships within the
3	Coroner's office. So we are funded by the local
4	authority and in Cheshire certainly part funded by the
5	police in that the police in Cheshire provided me with
6	my Coroner's officers.
7	So my Coroner's officers had I suppose potentially
8	a dual loyalty; they obviously were loyal to the police,
9	who employed them, but also loyal to me as leader of the
10	Coroners Service.
11	The advantage in having police employees, although
12	they were no longer serving officers, was that they had
13	access to the police computer and so could keep abreast
14	of information that was available to police officers and
15	I suppose the most important part of that was what's
16	sometimes called the STORM log where all incidents could
17	be picked up on.
18	So typically my officers would come into the office
19	really quite early and have reference to the STORM log
20	and they could pick out perhaps matters that might be
20 21	
21 22	coming my way, as it were, at the earliest possible
	opportunity.
23	<b>Q.</b> You say at paragraph 10:
24 25	"My most frequent contact with senior police
25	officers would be in relation to organ donation and 2
1	expect to happen where there is suspicion in a forensic
2	postmortem situation?
3	A. Moving away from the death of a child, the
4	normal routine in respect of an individual requiring
5	a postmortem would be for a general pathologist to carry
6	out that responsibility and it would be quite a swift
7	process in in many cases. The pathologist would scan
8	any medical information that was available, look at the
9	circumstances as described to the pathologist, rely on
10	the anatomical assistant to eviscerate and then would
11	examine first externally and then the organs each in
12	turn, produce a postmortem report.
13	When it comes
14	<b>Q.</b> Would you expect engagement between the
15	pathologist and the clinicians who had seen the deceased
16	around the time of death or before death in a forensic
17	analysis?
18	A. It
19	LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: I wonder if we just might
20	be at cross-purposes or it may be that I've got at
21	cross-purposes. I think the question was about forensic
22	pathology
23	A. Yes, I was sort of my Lady
24	LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: You then answered about
25	general pathology.
	4

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(1) Pages 1 - 4

1	A. Yes.
2	LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: But I think the question
2	then was in relation to forensic, so can we just be
4	clear
5	A. My Lady
6	LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: about which we are
7	talking about?
8	A. Yes.
9	LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: So you have given
10	a general background in relation to forensic pathology
11	but perhaps it might help if we move on to forensic.
12	A. Yes, absolutely.
13	I was trying to sort of build the the picture by
14	way of contrast.
15	So if a forensic pathologist is employed, the
16	scrutiny and care is very much greater. The forensic
17	pathologist will demand a very full background briefing
18	by the police, the police will be present during the
19	entire process.
20	There will be a meticulous external examination of
21	the body looking and documenting every single injury,
22	blemish, anything that is found, whether it is
23	ultimately going to be relevant in relation to the cause
24	of death.
25	The internal examination takes place with similar
	5
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1 2	clinician or clinicians.
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1	care. There will be a Scenes Of Crime Officer in
2	attendance taking photographs of anything relevant as
3	directed by the pathologist, who will tend to carry out
4	a commentary as he or she is going on so that everybody
5	understands what is happening and to be sure that the
6	appropriate photographs for instance are taken.
7	Everything that is going to be withheld for further
8	examination, for instance small pieces of tissue, are
9	given exhibit numbers and so the process continues until
10	the examination has been completed to the pathologist's
11	satisfaction.
12	A process that will take a number of hours, whereas
13	in the case of a general postmortem perhaps 30 minutes
14	or so may be devoted to the process. With the forensic
15	postmortem it's meticulous in every degree, carried out
16	by a pathologist who has been trained to look for and
17	interpret forensically all relevant details.
18	<b>Q.</b> Should it be meticulous in terms of the
19	information the pathologist gets from the clinicians
20	about?
21	<b>A.</b> Yes, it's absolutely vital that the forensic
22	pathologist is fully briefed, both from the police who
23	will provide as accurate information as possible with
24	regard to the circumstances surrounding the death. If
25	there is relevant medical information to be had, then
	6
1	<b>Q.</b> Paragraph 27, you tell us:
2	"From my earliest years as a Coroner, I was
2 3	"From my earliest years as a Coroner, I was conscious of the fact that there were many deaths that
2 3 4	"From my earliest years as a Coroner, I was conscious of the fact that there were many deaths that should have been the subject of an Inquest but were
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(2) Pages 5 - 8

1	cause of death to the best of your knowledge,	1	Q. It's not your document so there's no reason
2	information and belief."	2	why you should have done?
3	We see at page 5 that is signed off by you. Did	3	<b>A.</b> No.
4	you endeavour to promulgate that guidance as best you	4	<b>Q.</b> Take your time to read page 1, I just want to
5	could?	5	ask your comments about hints and tips over the next
6	A. Yes. I made sure that every single doctor	6	page but read the whole document.
7	within within Cheshire had a copy.	7	(Pause).
8	<b>Q</b> . How do you say you did that?	8	A. Yes, thank you.
9	A. There was the I think if I remember	9	<b>Q.</b> And the next page.
10	correctly there were two bodies in Cheshire, Cheshire	10	A. Yes.
11	being divided in half. They all GPs were members, as	11	Q. Then the next page under "Hints and Tips"?
12	it were, and so by informing that particular or those	12	A. Yes.
13	particular bodies, sending a copy of the direction and	13	<b>Q.</b> Do you see the third bullet point:
14	requiring it to be sent to every single GP and receiving	14	"Avoid criticism of colleagues/other departments."
15	confirmation that that had been done.	15	A. Yes.
16	And similarly, in, in hospitals, I made sure that	16	<b>Q.</b> What do you think of that as a hint or a tip?
17	every new intake of doctors as part of their induction	17	A. It not very helpful.
18	pack was given a copy of my directions.	18	It's I suppose it's in the context of Inquests
19	<b>Q.</b> We see if that can come off the screen,	19	are not there to apportion blame, but if there have been
20	please, and have instead INQ0008638, page 1	20	medical mistakes
21	a document emanating from the Countess of Chester's	21	Q. Yes.
22	internal guidance, "Guidance on Writing Statements".	22	A it's very, very important that these come
23	I don't know if you have seen this before,	23	to light. Not so as not as a matter of retribution
24	Mr Rheinberg.	24	or punishment but to first of all to identify what has
25	<b>A.</b> No, I don't remember this.	25	happened, what has caused or contributed to the death
	9		10
1	and hopefully so that lessons can be learnt and similar	1	Consultant grade was giving evidence, it was my practice
2	tragedies can be avoided for the future.	2	to accept expert evidence in from them if
3	<b>Q.</b> Four bullet points down:	3	appropriate.
4	"You are not being called as an expert. Don't give	4	<b>Q.</b> To be fair to the Countess of Chester
5	opinions, leave that to senior Consultants. Just stick	5	document, if you go over to the next page, finally, it
6	to facts."	6	states:
7	The Inquiry has heard evidence from a junior doctor	7	"Do not repeat what is already in the notes.
8	at that their understanding was they just stuck to the	8	Expand and clarify if appropriate and do not leave out
9	facts and wrote the period of time they were caring for	9	significant information"?
10	an infant in isolation, just sticking to the facts of	10	A. Sorry, I am not hearing you.
11	their involvement at any period of time in the care of	11	<b>Q.</b> The top two bullet points?
12	a baby.	12	LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: She is just reading the
13	Just stick to facts, what would you say about that?	13	top line.
14	Does that need elaboration or not?	14	MS LANGDALE: Just read it, thank you.
15	A. Right, okay, well, doctors, unless	15	A. Okay, got it, yes.
16	specifically called as expert witnesses, are witnesses	16	<b>Q.</b> That can come down and now can we have on t
17	of fact, witnesses of fact are not permitted to give	17	screen INQ0008941, page 24, please.
18	opinions.	18	This, Mr Rheinberg, is a guidance document,
19	However, within the Coroner's Office in Cheshire,	19	I think, prepared by you and records show it was sent to
20	when when I was there we were holding an enormous	20	Mrs Sarah Harper-Lea on 1 July 2016 attached to request
21	number of Inquests and it wasn't appropriate to instruct	21	for statement. So this is guidance I think that you
22	an expert in every case. We would never have got	22	have drafted. Do you recognise that as your guidance or
23	through a huge list of cases if that was if that was	23	guidance from the Coroner's Office, perhaps it's not
	done and also the cost would have been very great.	24	yours.
24	ache ana alco the coot modia nave been very great.	<u> </u>	
24 25	In those circumstances, where someone perhaps of	25	LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: I think your name is at

(3) Pages 9 - 12

1	the bottom.
2	A. Yes, yes. Thank you. Yes, I don't remember
3	issuing this but clearly it is advice that I have given.
4	<b>Q.</b> You set out at 5 and 6 more broadly, don't
5	you:
6	"From details extracted from the notes, set out
7	relevant medical information relating to the cause or
8	circumstances of the death following the chronology
9	order."
10	At 6 you say:
11	"Hearsay evidence is acceptable provided you are
12	confident of the accuracy of the information you are
13	giving."
14 15	Can you just expand on what you meant by that,
15	"hearsay evidence is acceptable", which is perhaps
16	different from sticking to the facts of your own
17	knowledge in a moment in time, isn't it?
18	A. Yes. The rules of evidence in the
19 20	Coroners Court are not the same as in the civil and
20 21	criminal courts and we are permitted to accept hearsay evidence.
21	The good practice would demand that as much as
23	possible one would rely on hard evidence, adhering to
24	the usual rules of evidence, but we could spread our net
25	wider and still and not be in contravention of any of
20	13
1	solicitor writing:
1 2	solicitor writing: "Frustrated over the duration of the investigations
	solicitor writing: "Frustrated over the duration of the investigations as the death happened a year ago."
2	"Frustrated over the duration of the investigations
2 3	"Frustrated over the duration of the investigations as the death happened a year ago."
2 3 4	"Frustrated over the duration of the investigations as the death happened a year ago." If we go, take your time to read that and we will
2 3 4 5	"Frustrated over the duration of the investigations as the death happened a year ago." If we go, take your time to read that and we will put another document up then.
2 3 4 5 6	"Frustrated over the duration of the investigations as the death happened a year ago." If we go, take your time to read that and we will put another document up then. If we can have INQ0002042, page 173.
2 3 4 5 6 7	"Frustrated over the duration of the investigations as the death happened a year ago." If we go, take your time to read that and we will put another document up then. If we can have INQ0002042, page 173. What do you say in response?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	"Frustrated over the duration of the investigations as the death happened a year ago." If we go, take your time to read that and we will put another document up then. If we can have INQ0002042, page 173. What do you say in response? <b>A.</b> What do I say, sorry?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	<ul> <li>"Frustrated over the duration of the investigations</li> <li>as the death happened a year ago."</li> <li>If we go, take your time to read that and we will</li> <li>put another document up then.</li> <li>If we can have INQ0002042, page 173.</li> <li>What do you say in response?</li> <li>A. What do I say, sorry?</li> <li>Q. Yes, what do you say in response, if you don't</li> </ul>
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	<ul> <li>"Frustrated over the duration of the investigations</li> <li>as the death happened a year ago."</li> <li>If we go, take your time to read that and we will</li> <li>put another document up then.</li> <li>If we can have INQ0002042, page 173.</li> <li>What do you say in response?</li> <li>A. What do I say, sorry?</li> <li>Q. Yes, what do you say in response, if you don't</li> <li>mind reading out your email so we have it on the record?</li> </ul>
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	<ul> <li>"Frustrated over the duration of the investigations as the death happened a year ago."</li> <li>If we go, take your time to read that and we will put another document up then.</li> <li>If we can have INQ0002042, page 173.</li> <li>What do you say in response?</li> <li>A. What do I say, sorry?</li> <li>Q. Yes, what do you say in response, if you don't mind reading out your email so we have it on the record?</li> <li>A. Right. I was expecting a full report from the</li> </ul>
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	<ul> <li>"Frustrated over the duration of the investigations</li> <li>as the death happened a year ago."</li> <li>If we go, take your time to read that and we will</li> <li>put another document up then.</li> <li>If we can have INQ0002042, page 173.</li> <li>What do you say in response?</li> <li>A. What do I say, sorry?</li> <li>Q. Yes, what do you say in response, if you don't</li> <li>mind reading out your email so we have it on the record?</li> <li>A. Right. I was expecting a full report from the</li> <li>hospital. Bearing in mind the circumstances surrounding</li> </ul>
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	<ul> <li>"Frustrated over the duration of the investigations as the death happened a year ago."</li> <li>If we go, take your time to read that and we will put another document up then.</li> <li>If we can have INQ0002042, page 173.</li> <li>What do you say in response?</li> <li>A. What do I say, sorry?</li> <li>Q. Yes, what do you say in response, if you don't mind reading out your email so we have it on the record?</li> <li>A. Right. I was expecting a full report from the hospital. Bearing in mind the circumstances surrounding the death of Baby A, there had been medical errors that</li> </ul>
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 13	<ul> <li>"Frustrated over the duration of the investigations as the death happened a year ago."</li> <li>If we go, take your time to read that and we will put another document up then.</li> <li>If we can have INQ0002042, page 173.</li> <li>What do you say in response?</li> <li>A. What do I say, sorry?</li> <li>Q. Yes, what do you say in response, if you don't mind reading out your email so we have it on the record?</li> <li>A. Right. I was expecting a full report from the hospital. Bearing in mind the circumstances surrounding the death of Baby A, there had been medical errors that could potentially have been implicated in the death.</li> </ul>
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	<ul> <li>"Frustrated over the duration of the investigations as the death happened a year ago."</li> <li>If we go, take your time to read that and we will put another document up then.</li> <li>If we can have INQ0002042, page 173.</li> <li>What do you say in response?</li> <li>A. What do I say, sorry?</li> <li>Q. Yes, what do you say in response, if you don't mind reading out your email so we have it on the record?</li> <li>A. Right. I was expecting a full report from the hospital. Bearing in mind the circumstances surrounding the death of Baby A, there had been medical errors that could potentially have been implicated in the death.</li> <li>I think I remember correctly it was in relation to the</li> </ul>
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	<ul> <li>"Frustrated over the duration of the investigations as the death happened a year ago." <ul> <li>If we go, take your time to read that and we will</li> </ul> </li> <li>put another document up then. <ul> <li>If we can have INQ0002042, page 173.</li> <li>What do you say in response?</li> </ul> </li> <li>A. What do I say, sorry?</li> <li>Q. Yes, what do you say in response, if you don't mind reading out your email so we have it on the record? <ul> <li>A. Right. I was expecting a full report from the hospital. Bearing in mind the circumstances surrounding the death of Baby A, there had been medical errors that could potentially have been implicated in the death.</li> <li>I think I remember correctly it was in relation to the insertion of lines.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	<ul> <li>"Frustrated over the duration of the investigations as the death happened a year ago." If we go, take your time to read that and we will put another document up then. If we can have INQ0002042, page 173. </li> <li>What do you say in response? A. What do I say, sorry? Q. Yes, what do you say in response, if you don't mind reading out your email so we have it on the record? A. Right. I was expecting a full report from the hospital. Bearing in mind the circumstances surrounding the death of Baby A, there had been medical errors that could potentially have been implicated in the death. I think I remember correctly it was in relation to the insertion of lines. Q. A long line, yes.</li></ul>
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	<ul> <li>"Frustrated over the duration of the investigations as the death happened a year ago."</li> <li>If we go, take your time to read that and we will put another document up then.</li> <li>If we can have INQ0002042, page 173.</li> <li>What do you say in response?</li> <li>A. What do I say, sorry?</li> <li>Q. Yes, what do you say in response, if you don't mind reading out your email so we have it on the record?</li> <li>A. Right. I was expecting a full report from the hospital. Bearing in mind the circumstances surrounding the death of Baby A, there had been medical errors that could potentially have been implicated in the death.</li> <li>I think I remember correctly it was in relation to the insertion of lines.</li> <li>Q. A long line, yes.</li> <li>A. And of potential relevance the fact that the</li> </ul>
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	<ul> <li>"Frustrated over the duration of the investigations as the death happened a year ago."</li> <li>If we go, take your time to read that and we will put another document up then.</li> <li>If we can have INQ0002042, page 173.</li> <li>What do you say in response?</li> <li>A. What do I say, sorry?</li> <li>Q. Yes, what do you say in response, if you don't mind reading out your email so we have it on the record?</li> <li>A. Right. I was expecting a full report from the hospital. Bearing in mind the circumstances surrounding the death of Baby A, there had been medical errors that could potentially have been implicated in the death.</li> <li>I think I remember correctly it was in relation to the insertion of lines.</li> <li>Q. A long line, yes.</li> <li>A. And of potential relevance the fact that the misplacement of one of the lines coincided with an arrest quite shortly afterwards.</li> <li>So my anticipation was that there would be would</li> </ul>
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	<ul> <li>"Frustrated over the duration of the investigations as the death happened a year ago."</li> <li>If we go, take your time to read that and we will put another document up then.</li> <li>If we can have INQ0002042, page 173.</li> <li>What do you say in response?</li> <li>A. What do I say, sorry?</li> <li>Q. Yes, what do you say in response, if you don't mind reading out your email so we have it on the record?</li> <li>A. Right. I was expecting a full report from the hospital. Bearing in mind the circumstances surrounding the death of Baby A, there had been medical errors that could potentially have been implicated in the death.</li> <li>I think I remember correctly it was in relation to the insertion of lines.</li> <li>Q. A long line, yes.</li> <li>A. And of potential relevance the fact that the misplacement of one of the lines coincided with an arrest quite shortly afterwards.</li> <li>So my anticipation was that there would be would have been a very full investigation, either internally</li> </ul>
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	<ul> <li>"Frustrated over the duration of the investigations as the death happened a year ago."</li> <li>If we go, take your time to read that and we will put another document up then.</li> <li>If we can have INQ0002042, page 173.</li> <li>What do you say in response?</li> <li>A. What do I say, sorry?</li> <li>Q. Yes, what do you say in response, if you don't mind reading out your email so we have it on the record?</li> <li>A. Right. I was expecting a full report from the hospital. Bearing in mind the circumstances surrounding the death of Baby A, there had been medical errors that could potentially have been implicated in the death.</li> <li>I think I remember correctly it was in relation to the insertion of lines.</li> <li>Q. A long line, yes.</li> <li>A. And of potential relevance the fact that the misplacement of one of the lines coincided with an arrest quite shortly afterwards.</li> <li>So my anticipation was that there would be would have been a very full investigation, either internally or through an independent person called in by the Trust</li> </ul>
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	<ul> <li>"Frustrated over the duration of the investigations as the death happened a year ago."</li> <li>If we go, take your time to read that and we will put another document up then.</li> <li>If we can have INQ0002042, page 173.</li> <li>What do you say in response?</li> <li>A. What do I say, sorry?</li> <li>Q. Yes, what do you say in response, if you don't mind reading out your email so we have it on the record?</li> <li>A. Right. I was expecting a full report from the hospital. Bearing in mind the circumstances surrounding the death of Baby A, there had been medical errors that could potentially have been implicated in the death.</li> <li>I think I remember correctly it was in relation to the insertion of lines.</li> <li>Q. A long line, yes.</li> <li>A. And of potential relevance the fact that the misplacement of one of the lines coincided with an arrest quite shortly afterwards.</li> <li>So my anticipation was that there would be would have been a very full investigation, either internally</li> </ul>

quiry	6 December 20
4	
1	the rules.
2	<b>Q.</b> Thank you, that can go down.
3	I am going to move now, Mr Rheinberg, to Baby A and
4	the death of Child A. I make it clear at the outset
5	I am not asking you any questions about your
6	decision-making and the Inquest itself. We are
7	interested in exploring the information provided to you?
8	A. Okay.
9	<b>Q.</b> And the adequacy of that, so I am going take
10	you to various documents on the screen and where it's
11	helpful for you, refer you to a paragraph in your
12	statement where you have set out postmortem results that
13	might make it easier for you to set those out for us?
14	A. Okay.
15	Q. So Child A, we know Child A's death was
16	reported to the Coroner on 8 June 2015 and in an
17	investigation opened, a postmortem gave cause of death
18	unascertained and there was an Inquest held on
19	10 October and a narrative verdict given.
20	If we can start, please, with INQ0002042, page 174,
21	so we know the death has been reported to you in
22	June 2015 and you have here when it comes on the
23	screen
24	A. Right.
25	<b>Q.</b> we see at the bottom 2016, the parents' 14
1	<b>Q.</b> So you respond and then suggest dates to avoid
2	from their perspective
3	A. Yes.
4	<b>Q.</b> moving it forward. Thank you.
5	If we can then have INQ0002042, page 186. This
6	email is an email from Mr Cross to you?
7	A. Oh right, yes.
8	<b>Q.</b> Suggesting an obstetric secondary review will
9	be sent to you?
10	A. Yes.
11	<b>Q.</b> You then, if we go to page 169 it's the
12	same INQ number, Mrs Killingback, it's just a different
13	page, 169 what do you say there to the mother's
14	solicitor or parents' solicitor?
15	A. Sorry, what?
16	<b>Q.</b> What do you say there in this email?
17	<b>A.</b> It was a letter.
18	<b>Q.</b> Yes, a letter. What are you setting out?
19	A. It it's my preliminary decision as to the
20	relevant witnesses to the Inquest, bearing in mind the
21	fact that Baby A's Family were legally represented,
22	I wanted to run this past the solicitors in case they

- might regard as relevant, so that I could consider any
- representations in that regard.

had any suggestions about further witnesses that they

1	<b>Q.</b> You say subject to anything unexpected within		
2	the SUI. So again explain what you are expecting from		
3	an SUI?		
4	<b>A.</b> A detailed review of of what had happened.		
5	Typically, these reports would come through with		
6	all participants anonymised through a series of letters		
7	and so if unasked the Trust sent me through a list of		
8	the witnesses to match up to the letters, I would always		
9	demand the a means of identifying which witnesses are		
10	being referred to and so after a detailed report I could		
11	check that I hadn't missed out any witnesses from my		
12	preliminary list.		
13	<b>Q.</b> Can we next have, please, INQ0050707, page 1.		
14	It's not an email that you saw?		
15	<b>A.</b> No.		
16	<b>Q.</b> But it's been sent to your office from		
17	Joshua Swash		
18	A. Right.		
19	<b>Q.</b> A paralegal at the Countess of Chester and		
20	it says:		
20	"Please could you bring this to the attention of		
22	Mr Rheinberg.		
23	"As stated in Stephen Cross's email of Friday,		
23 24	12 August please find attached the OSR report for this		
24	case and action plan documents. Please note the NNU		
25	17		
1	practice and record-keeping"		
2	Et cetera and it relates to Child A only?		
3	A. Yes.		
4	<b>Q</b> . So you are sent that.		
5	We then see in September, if we can have		
6	INQ0002042, page 155, a letter from the solicitors for		
7	the parents		
8	A. Yes.		
9	<b>Q.</b> of Baby A. Take your time to read that.		
10	A. Yes.		
11	(Pause)		
12	Thank you, yes, I am familiar with that letter.		
13	<b>Q.</b> Yes. They say:		
14	"We were of the understanding that a full		
15	investigation was taking place."		
16	They are unhappy, aren't they		
17	A. Yes.		
18	<b>Q.</b> with what they have received. A short		
19	document that bears the date 1 July 2015. Do you think		
20	that was the page that Dr Brearey the one before		
21	A. Yes.		
22	Q that they were sent?		
22 23	<b>Q.</b> that they were sent? It doesn't look from that letter as though they		
23	It doesn't look from that letter as though they		
23 24	It doesn't look from that letter as though they were sent the Thematic Review document but they were		
23	It doesn't look from that letter as though they		

Mortality Thematic Review has been redacted due to the 1 other patients' confidentiality." 2 If we can see what that looks like, please, it's 3 4 INQ0008841 page 1. So this appears, Mr Rheinberg, to have been sent on 5 6 19 August --A. Right. 7 8 -- 2016. Q. The Inquiry has seen different versions of this but 9 10 this copy for you is -- appears as follows for the Coroner's Office, see page 1 there. If we can go over 11 the page to page 2, page 3, page 4, 5, 6 and then the 12 last page, page? 13 14 Α. Yes Page 7 and page 8, please. So this appears to 15 Q. 16 only have Child A but as the document refers to, there 17 are other babies in a version of that, but you have been sent the one related or the office has been sent the one 18 19 in relation to Baby A ^. 20 You also tell us at paragraph 43 of your statement, 21 if we can have on the screen INQ0002042, page 777, you are sent that. 22 23 Α. Yes. 24 Q. We see: 25 "Learning from these cases notable excellence in 18 1 Α. Yes. 2 Q. If we go to INQ0002042, page 154, your letter to them? 3 4 Α. Yes. 5 Q. "... [you] too was disappointed with the brevity of the report which I received. However, I have 6 7 no power to order a hospital to conduct an 8 investigation, still less give directions as to the nature and extent of any investigation that's 9 undertaken." 10 11 And that you won't be adjourning the Inquest next 12 week. 13 "It would be inappropriate to do so." 14 If we go next to 0167, so the same INQ number 15 ending 2042 and then 0167, your office, when it comes up, chasing statements. 16 17 If we go to page, the next page of that, 168 first, we know Dr Saladi's statement is in fact dated 18 16 August 2015, Theresa McCormack's April 2016, 19 20 Ravi Jayaram's July 2015 and February 2016 and I think the ones on the first page too between February, 21 22 April 2016 I think only Dr Harkness' was later in 23 September.

- 24 In terms of that time lapse in receiving
- 25 statements, was that not unusual or was that ... 20

No, it -- it -- it wasn't unusual to have to 1 Α. 2 chase for statements. I had developed a protocol with 3 all the hospitals giving deadlines with regard to 4 production of statements, et cetera. On occasions, those deadlines were breached, they were -- they were 5 6 followed up and the usual result would be an apology and 7 the statement to hand. 8 This was unusual. It -- there were to me at any 9 rate unacceptable delays. 10 We know you are moving forwards to the Inquest Q. on 10 October. On 6 October you get this email, 11 INQ0053069, page 1. 12 13 We see from the bottom from Mr Cross: 14 "Dear Mr Rheinberg, you will recall that in your 14 absence I advised your deputy that the Countess was 15 16 undertaking a review of neonatal deaths by the Royal 17 College of Paediatrics and Child Health which was 18 undertaken at the beginning of September and the Trust 19 is awaiting their report. The Review Team have 20 indicated that they were entirely satisfied with the 21 care within the neonatal unit and raised no concerns. 22 However, they recommended that a detailed forensic 23 Casenote Review of each of the deaths from July 2015 should be undertaken, so consequently this is still work 24 24 25 in progress." 21 1 as I was not in -- available to take the call. That, 2 that -- I picked that up from the documents sent to me. 3 Q. Indeed, Mr Moore said yesterday so you are 4 aware that he was -- he did take a call --5 Α. Yes 6 Q. -- that was meant for you where he was told about the RCPCH review and that a review was being 7 8 undertaken? 9 Α. Yes. 10 Q. And that he told you about the call and said 11 that there was a review being undertaken? 12 Α. Yes. I am absolutely positive he -- he will 13 have done so. He was meticulous in that regard. It's 14 my failing memory, I'm afraid, I -- I can't remember. But I did know that there was -- was to be a review. It 15 may have been that conversation that had been passed on 16 17 by Mr Moore, but I -- I can't now remember. 18 To be clear, Mr Moore's evidence was that when Q. he said that to you, you were aware of a review into 19 20 neonatal deaths but his evidence is he wasn't aware that there was a suspicion about a nurse or a member of 21 22 staff --23 Α. No. 24 Q. -- being involved in deaths but you were -- he 25 was aware of neonatal deaths and a review?

23

Over the page, if we can:

2 "I have instructed Louis Browne of counsel in this

3 matter and he is fully aware of the review and

4 Dr Jayaram as the lead Consultant is also fully aware of

this matter. He is called to give evidence at this 5

6 Inquest and will be able to answer any questions

7 regarding the review."

8 For completeness, if we go back to the previous

9 page and look at the email at the top. Thank you,

10 that's been enlarged, we see for our purposes that

Mr Cross makes it clear that he hasn't sent a copy to 11

12 the Coroner?

13 Α. Yes.

> But explained it in the email below. Q.

15 In terms of the email below, it's clear you weren't

16 sent a copy at that stage. Were you aware that Mr Moore

17 had had a conversation with Mr Cross previously about

the fact that a review was being undertaken? 18

19 No. I think if I remember correctly from the Α.

20 documents provided to me that it was alleged or stated

that a telephone conversation had taken place between 21

- 22 Mr Cross and Mr Moore, was it 13 July?
- 23 Q. It was in July.

Α. Yes. And that this conversation imparted

25 information to Mr Moore which was to be passed on to me 22

1 Α. Oh absolutely. I mean, it was a concern that there had been a number of deaths at the Countess of 2 Chester and good to know that the matter was being 3 4 looked into independently. But certainly so far as 5 I was concerned there was not a whisper of any 6 suspicion. 7 Q. And indeed when you hear the Inquest for 8 10 October 2016, as we know when we go through the sequence, by then you have had the deaths of A,C,D,E,I, 9 O and P --10 Α. 11 Yes -- notified to you. So you were aware of 12 Q. 13 a series of neonatal deaths? 14 Α. Yes 15 We have got a note of the Inquest hearing, we Q. have got a number of notes and there seems to be 16 17 a particularly full one from the Family's solicitors. If we can look, please, at INQ0107909, page 8. If we 18 can just have the last paragraph on the screen. Perhaps 19 20 enlarge that. Dr Jayaram's evidence. 21 Mr Rheinberg, we see you asked Dr Jayaram whether 22 or not he has seen anything similar. Can you read that

23 again now --

24 Α. Yes, I will, yes.

25 -- and tell us what you understood from that Q. 24

1	evidence?
2	A. Okay.
3	(Pause)
4	So I don't remember this. So my understanding will
5	be relating to the reading of this now.
6	<b>Q.</b> Yes, understood.
7	(Pause)
8	A. Yes, I have read that.
9 10	<b>Q.</b> What did you make of that at the time? What
10 11	did you understand from that? A. Well, he was giving details or referring to
12	previous cases and where the cause could not be found
12	and that whilst there was nothing specific in relation
13	to the department, it was being downgraded as a general
15	safeguard presumably pending a the result of a review
16	just in case there was something amiss within the
17	department from a clinical excellence point of view.
18	<b>Q.</b> Thank you. That can go down. If we go to
19	your statement, please, at paragraph 45, you set out
20	there your conclusions and you say at the end of
21	paragraph 45 you had stated:
22	"It cannot be determined what caused Child A's
23	collapse and subsequent death and further it cannot be
24	determined whether this was due to a natural or
25	unnatural event'."
	25
1	so I could theoretically have just put "open verdict"
1 2	so I could theoretically have just put "open verdict" Q. Don't worry, we are not worried about your
2	<b>Q.</b> Don't worry, we are not worried about your
2 3	<b>Q.</b> Don't worry, we are not worried about your decision not worried about that?
2 3 4	<ul> <li>Q. Don't worry, we are not worried about your decision not worried about that?</li> <li>A. It didn't strike me that that was appropriate.</li> </ul>
2 3 4 5	<ul> <li>Q. Don't worry, we are not worried about your decision not worried about that?</li> <li>A. It didn't strike me that that was appropriate.</li> <li>Q. Child C, moving to Child C. We know Child C's</li> </ul>
2 3 4 5 6	<ul> <li>Q. Don't worry, we are not worried about your decision not worried about that?</li> <li>A. It didn't strike me that that was appropriate.</li> <li>Q. Child C, moving to Child C. We know Child C's death was reported to the Coroner on 15 June 2015 and an investigation was opened. If you go to paragraph 53 of your statement, we see you ordered a postmortem</li> </ul>
2 3 4 5 6 7	<ul> <li>Q. Don't worry, we are not worried about your decision not worried about that?</li> <li>A. It didn't strike me that that was appropriate.</li> <li>Q. Child C, moving to Child C. We know Child C's death was reported to the Coroner on 15 June 2015 and an investigation was opened. If you go to paragraph 53 of</li> </ul>
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	<ul> <li>Q. Don't worry, we are not worried about your decision not worried about that?</li> <li>A. It didn't strike me that that was appropriate.</li> <li>Q. Child C, moving to Child C. We know Child C's death was reported to the Coroner on 15 June 2015 and an investigation was opened. If you go to paragraph 53 of your statement, we see you ordered a postmortem examination to be performed.</li> <li>Can you tell us what the conclusion of that was and therefore how the investigation discontinued?</li> </ul>
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	<ul> <li>Q. Don't worry, we are not worried about your decision not worried about that?</li> <li>A. It didn't strike me that that was appropriate.</li> <li>Q. Child C, moving to Child C. We know Child C's death was reported to the Coroner on 15 June 2015 and an investigation was opened. If you go to paragraph 53 of your statement, we see you ordered a postmortem examination to be performed.</li> <li>Can you tell us what the conclusion of that was and therefore how the investigation discontinued?</li> <li>A. Right. I can't remember offhand the specifics</li> </ul>
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	<ul> <li>Q. Don't worry, we are not worried about your decision not worried about that?</li> <li>A. It didn't strike me that that was appropriate.</li> <li>Q. Child C, moving to Child C. We know Child C's death was reported to the Coroner on 15 June 2015 and an investigation was opened. If you go to paragraph 53 of your statement, we see you ordered a postmortem examination to be performed.</li> <li>Can you tell us what the conclusion of that was and therefore how the investigation discontinued?</li> <li>A. Right. I can't remember offhand the specifics of the report, I think it was Dr Kokai.</li> </ul>
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	<ul> <li>Q. Don't worry, we are not worried about your decision not worried about that?</li> <li>A. It didn't strike me that that was appropriate.</li> <li>Q. Child C, moving to Child C. We know Child C's death was reported to the Coroner on 15 June 2015 and an investigation was opened. If you go to paragraph 53 of your statement, we see you ordered a postmortem examination to be performed.</li> <li>Can you tell us what the conclusion of that was and therefore how the investigation discontinued?</li> <li>A. Right. I can't remember offhand the specifics of the report, I think it was Dr Kokai.</li> <li>Q. Don't worry, you summarise it at paragraph 53 of your statement?</li> <li>A. Sorry, I will look it up.</li> <li>Q. It may be easier I would look it up rather than</li> <li>A. Which paragraph?</li> <li>Q. 53. You say:     "At an early stage the pathologist indicated his opinion that Child C had died from natural causes but</li> </ul>

Can you just clarify for us, which you do later in 1 2 your statement, what you were referring to there when you said "or a natural event"? 3 4 Δ Okay, there were two possible factors that could have been relevant to the cause of death. The one 5 6 iatrogenic, the other natural. So I have already 7 mentioned the misplaced line, misplaced on two occasions and I think it was after the second line insertion, 8 misinsertion, very shortly afterwards that there was 9 10 a collapse. 11 The other pathological finding was a crossing over of the pulmonary artery and that was described by the 12 pathologist as "extraordinarily rare", I think it was 13 something like 27 cases only known, but unlikely to 14 explain the death, although the pathologist set out 15 16 a theoretical basis upon which death could have ensued, 17 but then rather dismissed it. 18 I was struck by the coincidence of the error and 19 the death, although I had to take on board the 20 pathologist's opinion that this probably was not 21 relevant so far as the cause of death was concerned. 22 So this was one of those very unfortunate cases 23 where despite all the investigations that had been undertaken, and in particular despite a paediatric 24 25 postmortem, the -- the cause of death was not apparent 26 1 Q. "[You] opened an investigation. Dr Kokai had already expressed an opinion that the cause of death was 2 natural. Nevertheless ..." 3 4 Α. Yes. 5 Q. "... at that stage the cause of death was 6 unknown." 7 Α. Yes. 8 Q. "After an investigation had been formally opened Dr Kokai gave his opinion as to the cause of 9 death. The cause given was naturally occurring." 10 Therefore you discontinued the investigation? 11 Yes, and this would follow a very usual line 12 Α. with a paediatric postmortem. There would be 13 14 an immediate response from the -- or a speedy response from the pathologist, to give a steer as to where things 15 might be going. But the opinion as to the cause of 16 17 death being withheld until all investigations, both microscopic and biological, had been undertaken. 18 19 Q. Child D's death was reported on 22 June 2015. 20 If we go to INQ0002045, page 8, we see Dr Newby reporting that death, referred to it being the third 21 22 death in 12 days for neonatal? 23 Α. Yes.

- 24 Q. Also a further episode of apnoeic event and
- 25 CPR for previous twin death. Surviving Twin had
  - 28

1	successful ^		
2	Postmortem was conducted and we know that the		
3	conclusion of that was pneumonia with acute lung injury		
4	and you had provisionally decided to discontinue the		
5	investigation but received a letter, didn't you, from		
6	the parents requesting further investigation?		
7	A. Yes.		
8	<b>Q.</b> So your letter in response, INQ0002045,		
9	page 962.		
10	A. Yes.		
11	<b>Q.</b> Tell us what you are saying there or stating		
12	there.		
13	A. Messrs Gamlins had been appointed to act for		
14	the Family. I think I had received a letter from		
15	Baby D's parents direct, giving a number of details		
16	relating to what they saw as mismanagement in relation		
17	to the death and I decided that this did need further		
18	investigation, and although a natural cause of death had		
19 20	been given, and so in normal circumstances a discontinuance would be the only course of action		
20 21	appropriate, in these particular circumstances I decided		
21	to accede to the request made by Messrs Gamlins.		
23	Q. If we can have the next page up, the same		
24	INQ number page 974.		
25	While it comes up, Mr Rheinberg		
	29		
1	<b>Q.</b> And you set out at paragraph 66:		
2	"It appears from the paperwork that she [that is		
2 3	"It appears from the paperwork that she [that is the doctor] was satisfied that the reporting doctor had		
2 3 4	"It appears from the paperwork that she [that is the doctor] was satisfied that the reporting doctor had correctly identified the cause of death which could be		
2 3 4 5	"It appears from the paperwork that she [that is the doctor] was satisfied that the reporting doctor had correctly identified the cause of death which could be registered without a postmortem examination or further		
2 3 4 5 6	"It appears from the paperwork that she [that is the doctor] was satisfied that the reporting doctor had correctly identified the cause of death which could be registered without a postmortem examination or further investigation by the Coroner's Office."		
2 3 4 5 6 7	"It appears from the paperwork that she [that is the doctor] was satisfied that the reporting doctor had correctly identified the cause of death which could be registered without a postmortem examination or further investigation by the Coroner's Office." Sorry, I should make clear it was somebody at the		
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	"It appears from the paperwork that she [that is the doctor] was satisfied that the reporting doctor had correctly identified the cause of death which could be registered without a postmortem examination or further investigation by the Coroner's Office." Sorry, I should make clear it was somebody at the Coroner's Office working as a senior partner in a GP		
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	"It appears from the paperwork that she [that is the doctor] was satisfied that the reporting doctor had correctly identified the cause of death which could be registered without a postmortem examination or further investigation by the Coroner's Office." Sorry, I should make clear it was somebody at the Coroner's Office working as a senior partner in a GP practice, forensically trained, et cetera, she was		
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	"It appears from the paperwork that she [that is the doctor] was satisfied that the reporting doctor had correctly identified the cause of death which could be registered without a postmortem examination or further investigation by the Coroner's Office." Sorry, I should make clear it was somebody at the Coroner's Office working as a senior partner in a GP practice, forensically trained, et cetera, she was satisfied that the reporting doctor had correctly		
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	"It appears from the paperwork that she [that is the doctor] was satisfied that the reporting doctor had correctly identified the cause of death which could be registered without a postmortem examination or further investigation by the Coroner's Office." Sorry, I should make clear it was somebody at the Coroner's Office working as a senior partner in a GP practice, forensically trained, et cetera, she was satisfied that the reporting doctor had correctly identified the cause of death and so it was there was no		
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	"It appears from the paperwork that she [that is the doctor] was satisfied that the reporting doctor had correctly identified the cause of death which could be registered without a postmortem examination or further investigation by the Coroner's Office." Sorry, I should make clear it was somebody at the Coroner's Office working as a senior partner in a GP practice, forensically trained, et cetera, she was satisfied that the reporting doctor had correctly identified the cause of death and so it was there was no postmortem and no Inquest; is that right? <b>A.</b> Yes. Correct.		
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	"It appears from the paperwork that she [that is the doctor] was satisfied that the reporting doctor had correctly identified the cause of death which could be registered without a postmortem examination or further investigation by the Coroner's Office." Sorry, I should make clear it was somebody at the Coroner's Office working as a senior partner in a GP practice, forensically trained, et cetera, she was satisfied that the reporting doctor had correctly identified the cause of death and so it was there was no postmortem and no Inquest; is that right? A. Yes. Correct. Q. So where there was no request for an Inquest		
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	"It appears from the paperwork that she [that is the doctor] was satisfied that the reporting doctor had correctly identified the cause of death which could be registered without a postmortem examination or further investigation by the Coroner's Office." Sorry, I should make clear it was somebody at the Coroner's Office working as a senior partner in a GP practice, forensically trained, et cetera, she was satisfied that the reporting doctor had correctly identified the cause of death and so it was there was no postmortem and no Inquest; is that right? A. Yes. Correct. Q. So where there was no request for an Inquest the Coroner's Office also had to ratify or see that		
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iquit	у	0 December 2
1	Α.	Yes.
2	Q.	you retired in March, didn't you?
3	Α.	Yes.
4	Q.	March 2017?
5	Α.	Yes.
6	Q.	We see a letter that your successor Mr Moore
7	sends on	3 May 2017:
8	"De	ar Mr Cross,
9	"I wi	rite further to Mr Rheinberg's letter to you
10	dated 13	February in which he indicated he was looking
11	forward to	o receiving from you copies of the in-depth
12	reviews c	arried out in respect of Twins and Child D and
13	Child A."	
14	Α.	Yes.
15	Q.	That is sent 3 May. And I think that's the
16	day after	the Countess of Chester have written to the
17	police. B	ut at this point, Mr Moore is asking for those
18	reviews?	
19	Α.	Yes, yes.
20	Q.	That can come down. Child E. If you can go
21	to paragra	aph 65 of your statement, please?
22	Α.	Right, thank you.
23	Q.	Child E's death was reported on 4 August 2015.
24		s no postmortem and no Inquest opened?
25	Α.	No. 30
		30
1		eaths of children under the age of 18 should
2		ed. So quite proper that the death was
3 4	reported.	Child l'a daoth was reported on
4 5	Q.	Child I's death was reported on
		er 2015. You tell us at paragraph 67 of your that the investigation was discontinued
6 7		receipt of a postmortem on 6 February 2016.
8	A.	Yes.
9	Q.	You set out at paragraph 69 that:
10		Kokai produced a full postmortem report dated
11		ary [and] gave his opinion as to the cause of
12		hypoxic ischaemic damage of brain and chronic
13		ase of prematurity due to extreme prematurity."
14	-	concluding remarks, he wrote:
15		nd it justifiable to conclude that Child I's
16		s a result of natural causes and a result of a
17		ion of several underlying pathological processes
18		sequence of prematurity"
19		so it was that investigation was discontinued.
20	А.	Correct. Yes.

- **Q.** We then come to two babies from three Triplets
- 22 and deaths are notified to you as well and if we go to
- 23  $\,$  INQ0002046 0083, we see this is an email, isn't it, to
- 24 you from your office, Christine Hurst?

25 **LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL:** It's just coming up now. 32

1	<b>MS LANGDALE:</b> It's actually page 83, please. 2046,
2	page 83, not that page.
3	LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: Can we take that off,
4	please?
5	MS LANGDALE: Yes. 0083.
6	A. Right.
7	<b>Q.</b> We see there attached postmortem reports for
8	Babies O and P.
9	A. Yes.
10	<b>Q.</b> You tell us as indeed Christine Hurst
11	mentioned in her statement to the Inquiry that soon
12	after the deaths had been reported, you had
13	a conversation and she came over to your office to
14 15	discuss the deaths.
15 16	By all means refresh your memory from paragraph 74 of your statement, if you would like to do so.
17	A. Yes.
18	<b>Q</b> . So what do you remember now about any
19	conversation between you both?
20	A. Christine and I had frequent conversations on
21	all manner of things relating to the jurisdiction. But
22	I do remember her coming over and us having a discussion
23	about our concerns about the this being yet another
24	unexpected death of an infant or infants at the Countess
25	of Chester Hospital.
	33
1 2	they might have statistically expected, what information
2	were you relying on for that? Can you remember now or would you rather we went through
4	A. Well, I know generally it was an investigation
5	into the operation of the unit to identify any
6	shortcomings or any issues that could explain some or
7	all of the deaths or might have been a factor rather
8	than explaining the causes of death.
9	<b>Q.</b> If we can go to INQ0058202, page 3, these are
10	follow-up emails on reports for Babies O and P but also
11	refer to the review, so let's look at these emails in
12	sequence.
13	So you see at the bottom from Claire Raggett at the
14	hospital to Christine Hurst, your office, 31 October?
15	A. Yes
16	<b>Q.</b> "Good afternoon Christine,
17	"I write further to our telephone conversation and
18	I have just spoken to Stephen who has asked Josh to send
19	the two reports over to you this afternoon. The Reports
20	are unsigned as [Dr V] is on leave until Friday when she
21	will be in a position to sign them."
22	
	So these are reports relating to O and P:
23	So these are reports relating to O and P: "But to avoid any delay for the Coroner to have
23 24	"But to avoid any delay for the Coroner to have sight of the report Stephen asked for the unsigned
	"But to avoid any delay for the Coroner to have

1	
1	<b>Q.</b> If we can go to page 82, the page before.
2	Your response at the top, 17 October:
2	"The postmortem reports"
4	A. Yes.
5	<b>Q.</b> " disclose a naturally occurring death and
6	I am discontinuing the investigations. There is nothing
7	in the reports to indicate any clinical mismanagement in
8	relation to these deaths which were both sudden and
9	unexpected. It can be seen Dr Kokai ascribes the death
10	to prematurity, albeit the processes which occurred in
11	each case were different.
12	"I am aware of the investigation that you refer to.
13	The hospital itself called for an investigation by dint
14	of the fact that they had experienced a number of
15	perinatal deaths in excess of what they might have
16	statistically expected. The investigation was not
17	instituted because of specific concerns about the deaths
18	in this instance and as noted above, I know of no
19	clinical mismanagement."
20	So you were aware of the review at that time?
21	A. Yes.
22	<b>Q</b> . The RCPCH review?
23	A. Yes.
24	<b>Q</b> . In terms of referring to what it was looking
25	into, a number of perinatal deaths in excess of what
	34
1	review, the Trust has now received a draft report which
2	it is considering factual accuracy and this will be done
2	by the end of this week.
4	"It is anticipated that the final report will be
4 5	
	received within 14 days from the review as receipt of
6 7	the Trust comments which will then be in a position to
7 8	share with the Coroner. "I have also raised your earlier email with Stephen
o 9	which, as you suggested, raises a number of issues
3 10	particularly around the strict legal position regarding
10	the time of death and we will be interested to hear your
12	view in due course."
13	Then we see above that, so that is the email that
14	is come to your office 31 October, 7 December:
15	"Hi Claire, any news on the review done by the
16	College yet?"
17	A. Yes, yes.
18	<b>Q.</b> So and if we go, please, to page 87, it's
19	a different INQ number actually, INQ0002046: page 86
20	actually is the first page of it.
21	Can we have page 88, please and the email at the
22	bottom of page 88.
23	A. Right.
24	<b>Q</b> . "Good morning Christine."

From Claire Raggett:

36

25

(9) Pages 33 - 36

"I write further to my email yesterday [this is 1 2 9 December]. Stephen has met with Ian Harvey earlier 3 this morning and as mentioned, the neonatal service 4 review has been received in the Trust. The review does advise that the Countess undertake some internal review 5 6 which will involve a secondary review of some of the 7 cases 8 "The Trust would like permission from the Coroner 9 to approach the appropriate pathologist where they have 10 been involved with a particular death. This will enable us to be in a position to present a comprehensive review 11 to the Coroner which we would anticipate to be completed 12 13 earlier in the New Year. "It would be helpful for lan and Stephen to meet 14 with the Coroner to discuss the findings of the reviews. 15 16 Perhaps you could suggest some dates for the Coroner for 17 a meeting, say third week of January 2017." Then above, from Christine Hurst to you. 18 19 Α. Yes. 20 Q. "Please see regarding the Royal College Review 21 at the Countess of Chester, the Children O and P cases 22 were, as I was told, part of the review." 23 If we go back to page 86, your response to 24 Christine: 25 "This does seem to be going over backwards. 37 1 "I write further to your email below. Stephen has 2 asked that I forward a copy of the review for the 3 attention of the Coroner. Please note this is still 4 confidential to the Trust board and will be shared with 5 our relevant clinicians at a meeting to be held on 6 Thursday, 26 January. 7 "Stephen has therefore asked you to advise the 8 Coroner accordingly and once it has been shared with our 9 clinicians the Trust has a communication plan for a wider dissemination of the report." 10 Do you see that? 11 12 Α. Yes, I do, yes. 13 Q. So we know a report is sent to you. We need 14 to go to a document from within the Countess of Chester to see what was sent to you, specifically and if we can 15 have please on the screen, INQ0058202, page 1. This is 16 17 early stages for the Trust with this report. 18 So they say we see from the email from Mr Cross: "Please see email below which confirms I have sent 19 20 the redacted version of the review to the Coroner as 21 agreed." 22 So with his colleagues stating he sends the 23 redacted version? 24 Α. Yes 25 Q. I am going to put on the screen the bits that 39

However, I have no objection to the Trust consulting 1 2 pathologist. At this stage I would like a copy of the document which has been produced. I also need to know 3 which cases the Trust decide to review. Finally, 4 I would like a date for the final comprehensive review. 5 6 Early in the New Year is too vague and in any event 7 I would want to have an opportunity to see the review and consider its implications prior to my retirement." 8 9 LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: Were you able to see that, 10 we had a bit of movement of the document? 11 Sorry? Α. LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: Are we all content we have 12 now had a chance to look at it? 13 14 MS LANGDALE: Can you see it? 15 Α. I can, yes. 16 Q. And you can confirm that is what you sent 17 between yourselves at that time? 18 Α. Absolutely, yes. 19 If we go now to page 91, same INQ number, 91. Q. 20 At the bottom of the page: 21 "Hi Claire, [17 January] Mr Rheinberg has asked 22 that he is sent without further delay a copy of the 23 neonatal service review." 24 20 January: 25 "Good morning Chris 38 1 were therefore redacted, Mr Rheinberg --2 Α. Okav. -- at that time. INQ0009618, page 8, 3 Q. paragraph 3.12. If we can just highlight that. That 4 5 paragraph. 6 Α. Right. Oh, thank you. 7 Q. So mention a nurse had been rostered on shift 8 for all the deaths although the nurse had not always been assigned to care for that specific infant? 9 10 Α. Yes. 11 O. Sorry. Can we go back to it. 3.12: "Subsequently paediatric lead and all the 12 Consultant paediatricians had become convinced by the 13 14 link although this was a subjective view with no other evidence or reports of clinical concerns about the nurse 15 beyond this simple correlation an allegation made to the 16 17 Medical Director and Director of Nursing." 18 Then if we go to page 9 of the same INQ number and those three paragraphs as well, if you can read those. 19 (Pause) 20 21 Α. Thank you. 22 Q. Then the next page, where the blue starts 23 "recommendations", you see that? That's on the redacted 24 version but the top two paragraphs. 25 Α. Okay. 40

(10) Pages 37 - 40

1	(Pause)
2	Thank you.
3	<b>Q.</b> Can we then have an email, please, that can
4	come down, INQ0002046, page 95. This is an email from
5	you to Christine Hurst and cc'ing Mr Moore. You say
6	here:
7	"Having reviewed the files again in relation to the
8	tragic deaths of the two Twins there is nothing to
9	indicate that the deaths were anything other than due to
10	natural causes. I was going to discontinue the
11	investigations but the parents asked me to wait until
12	the result of the Royal College's investigations into
13	neonates at Countess of Chester had been concluded.
14	"This report has now been received and its findings
15	do not add any information pertinent to the deaths in
16	question. The Countess of Chester called the
17	Royal College in because statistically there had been
18	a rise in infant mortality which could not easily be
19	explained. The report reveals a level of understaffing
20	for a unit of its size, possible delays in referrals to
21	tertiary care and other matters which no doubt will be
22	addressed. However, nothing in the report throws any
23	light on the deaths in question and these being natural
24	deaths with nothing to indicate gross human failure,
25	I have no jurisdiction to hold Inquests.
	41
1	<b>Q.</b> If we can go, please, to INQ0002046, page 77,
2	internal emails between yourself and your office,
3	Christine Hurst on 1 February.
4	Ms Hurst tells you:

- 5 "In the email I forwarded to you from
- 6 Claire Raggett from the Countess of Chester she
- 7 confirmed that an independent review is to be done of
- 8 each unexpected death and that a full independent review
- 9 of Children O and P and Child A cases currently been
- 10 undertaken.
- 11 "In light of this do you wish to discontinue the
- investigation or wait until these reviews are complete?" 12
- 13 And you say:
- 14 "We will await the outcome of the review."
- 15 Α. Yes.
- 16 Q. On 8 February --
- 17 Α. Sorry to interrupt. Is this in relation to --
- yes, it is. If I remember correctly the parents had, of 18
- the two babies had made a request that the Inquests or 19
- 20 the investigations shouldn't be discontinued despite the
- fact that Dr Kokai had found the deaths due to natural 21
- 22 causes and it seemed a perfectly reasonable request in
- 23 view of the fact that there were further investigations
- 24 to be undertaken.
- 25 So I countermanded my original instruction that the 43

- "Let the parents absorb the report and please 1 2 communicate my thoughts to them."
- You hadn't seen the full report at that time. Do 3
- you think you would have liked to have done or would it 4
- have made no difference to see --5
- 6 Α. Well, clearly I had not received the full
- report. My attitude would be somewhat different or 7
- would have been somewhat different if I had seen those 8
- 9 passages which appear to have been redacted.
- 10 Why would it have been any different? Q.
- Well -- it, it opened up a whole new line of 11 Α. enquiry. We, we have a mystery: why are there more 12
- deaths than would be expected? A review which 13
- apparently or appears to throw no light on the matter, 14
- but in particular doesn't show any systemic failure 15
- 16 which could explain the deaths other than staffing level 17 issues.
- 18 The paragraphs that were redacted clearly raise
- 19 a matter that needs investigation, and the response to
- 20 that would be reporting the matter to the police,
- whether or not I would have out of courtesy told the 21
- 22 Countess of Chester my intention to give them
- 23 an opportunity to make representations, I don't know.
- 24 But clearly this was a matter that needed further
  - independent investigation. 42
  - investigation should be discontinued.
- 1 2 It's apparent from your communications that Q. 3 you do communicate with parents when you are minded to 4 discontinue in case they have anything to add or say.
- 5 We see that in the case of Baby D --
  - Α. Yes.

6

7

8

- Q. -- and here. So --
- Α. It would most normally be not me direct but my
- officers on my behalf. When solicitors were involved, 9
- then normally I would engage in correspondence direct. 10 11
  - If we can go please to INQ0005815, page 1. O. That's a letter to Mr Cross from Christine Hurst.
- 12
- 13 Α. Yes.
- 14 Q. She says:

15 "I was assured last week by your department that

- all Family members would be contacted and informed about 16
- 17 the Royal College of Paediatrics report prior to it
- being made public. In light of this assurance I 18
- therefore did not get in touch with Father O,P&R to 19
- 20 inform him that this document was now complete and that
- it would be going public this week. I have just 21
- 22 received a telephone call from Father O,P&R who was
- 23 extremely distraught and very angry he has not been made
- 24 aware of the publication and he and his Family have only
- now found out about this via the babies' grandparents 25 44

1	who saw it on the news.	1	
2	"It was a very difficult and distressing phone	2	
3	call"?	3	
4	A. Yes.	4 5 ri	
5	<b>Q.</b> What was your understanding if you had		igl
6 7	a report like that, would you think that that should be	6 7	
8	<ul><li>shared with the Families or express a view about that?</li><li>A. Absolutely. Absolutely.</li></ul>		a
9	<b>Q.</b> If we can go to paragraph 95 of your	9	a
9 10	statement. You tell us that you are satisfied you did	9 10	
11	have a meeting at the hospital with Mr Cross and	10	
12	Mr Harvey because in subsequent correspondence they		m
13	refer to a meeting at the Countess on 8 February. So	12 1	
14	you don't recollect a meeting now but you think that's		in
15	probably right, you did have one with them at the	14 1	
16	hospital?	16	
17	A. Yes, I am sure the meeting took place. I I	. –	0
18	just have no recollection. Having been taken through	18	Ŭ
19	all the documents just now, I imagine that the meeting	19 (1	11
20	was to discuss the report but	20	
21	<b>Q</b> . The RCPCH report?	21 (1	11
22	A. Yes.	22	
23	<b>Q.</b> If we go to INQ0106817, page 34, this is		ı h
24	Mr Cross's note of a meeting. We can enlarge it and see	24	
25	if it helps you or not?	25	
	45		
1		1	
2	"NR: [presumably you] anything come out of in-depth	2 a	ISS
3		2 a	
	investigations?	3	
4	"IH: no theme has emerged."	3 4 a	ıb
4 5	<b>.</b>	3	b
	"IH: no theme has emerged."	3 4 a	b
5 6 7	"IH: no theme has emerged." And then you appear to say, if this is right: "Wouldn't want to get in the way of talking to the Families."	3 4 a 5 6 7 IN	
5 6 7 8	"IH: no theme has emerged." And then you appear to say, if this is right: "Wouldn't want to get in the way of talking to the Families." Would that be the sort of thing you talked about?	3 4 a 5 7 IN 8	
5 6 7 8 9	"IH: no theme has emerged." And then you appear to say, if this is right: "Wouldn't want to get in the way of talking to the Families." Would that be the sort of thing you talked about? A. Right. Yes, I am prepared to accept that, as	3 4 a 5 7 IN 8	
5 6 7 8 9 10	"IH: no theme has emerged." And then you appear to say, if this is right: "Wouldn't want to get in the way of talking to the Families." Would that be the sort of thing you talked about?	3 4 a 5 7 IN 8 9 m 10	N
5 6 7 8 9 10 11	"IH: no theme has emerged." And then you appear to say, if this is right: "Wouldn't want to get in the way of talking to the Families." Would that be the sort of thing you talked about? A. Right. Yes, I am prepared to accept that, as I say I have no recollection. Q. "Needs in-depth investigation. Coroner should	3 4 a 5 7 IN 8 9 m 10 11	N
5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	<ul> <li>"IH: no theme has emerged."</li> <li>And then you appear to say, if this is right:</li> <li>"Wouldn't want to get in the way of talking to the</li> <li>Families."</li> <li>Would that be the sort of thing you talked about?</li> <li>A. Right. Yes, I am prepared to accept that, as</li> <li>I say I have no recollection.</li> <li>Q. "Needs in-depth investigation. Coroner should share any further info with Families."</li> </ul>	3 4 a 5 7 IN 8 9 m 10 11 12	N
5 6 7 8 9 10 11	"IH: no theme has emerged." And then you appear to say, if this is right: "Wouldn't want to get in the way of talking to the Families." Would that be the sort of thing you talked about? A. Right. Yes, I am prepared to accept that, as I say I have no recollection. Q. "Needs in-depth investigation. Coroner should share any further info with Families." Then it looks like it says:	3 4 a 5 7 IN 8 9 m 10 11	N
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5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	<ul> <li>"IH: no theme has emerged."</li> <li>And then you appear to say, if this is right:</li> <li>"Wouldn't want to get in the way of talking to the</li> <li>Families."</li> <li>Would that be the sort of thing you talked about?</li> <li>A. Right. Yes, I am prepared to accept that, as</li> <li>I say I have no recollection.</li> <li>Q. "Needs in-depth investigation. Coroner should</li> <li>share any further info with Families."</li> <li>Then it looks like it says:</li> <li>"Trust done right thing."</li> <li>We don't have Mr Cross to tell us what that</li> <li>represents or whether there's what's alongside that?</li> </ul>	3 4 a 5 7 IN 8 9 m 10 11 12 13 14 in 15 S 16 p	ne
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1	A. Right. Oh, gosh.
2	<b>Q</b> . It is not easy, is it?
3	A. Can you translate?
4	Q. Yes. Top 8 February. It is that top
5	right-hand box?
6	A. Yes.
7	Q. You can enlarge it, I think. It's better in
8	hard copy.
9	A. Right.
10	<b>Q.</b> Mr Harvey outlining
11	Would you rather see a hard copy? This is a good
12	time for a break anyway.
13	LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: We could take the break
14	and get you a hard copy, is that convenient?
15	MS LANGDALE: Yes.
16	LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: So we will take a break
17	now. We will come back at 20 to 12.
18	A. Thank you.
19	(11.20 am)
20	(A short break)
21	(11.40 am)
22	MS LANGDALE: Mr Rheinberg, you and I both have
23	a hard copy.
24	A. Yes, that is helpful, thank you.
25	<b>Q.</b> We see that Mr Harvey outlines the meeting.
	46
1	"Coroner will advise his staff no comment. Never
2	associated paediatric deaths with the Countess."
3	But you have got no recollection of what that's
4	about?
5	A. Yes.
6	<b>Q.</b> If we can have instead on the screen, please,
7	INQ0002048, page 33,.
8	A letter from you to Mr Cross, further to the
9	meeting of 8 February.
10	A. Right.
11	<b>Q.</b> It will come on screen in a moment.
12	A. Right.
13	<b>Q.</b> "I look forward to receiving copies of the
14	in-depth reviews carried out in respect of the children.
15	So far I have received no press enquiries following
16	publication of the report."
17	We then know you have a meeting on 15 February?
18	A. Yes.
19	<b>Q.</b> If we can look, please, at INQ0002048,
20	page 34. We know you say and also Mr Harvey says that
21	a bundle of documents were given to you at this meeting.
22	Can we just look at what those documents were,
23	please.
24	A. Okay.
25	<b>Q.</b> In-depth review into baby deaths. Advisory

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1	medical report from Dr Hawdon dated October 2016.	1	change cannot solely be attributed to the redesignation
2	I won't put the whole report on the screen,	2	of the neonatal unit or any other changes in practice.
3	Mr Rheinberg, but if I can ask, please, for INQ0002048,	3	"Some of the babies who collapsed in 2015 and 2016
4	page 89 and page 90.	4	were born at greater than 32 weeks' gestation and many
5	We see recommendations at page 90, if we go back to	5	were not receiving intensive care at the time of their
6	page 89 we see a list:	6	collapses."
7	"Child D change following PM review."	7	At the end, saying:
8	So moving it in the document making it clear that	8	"We are making this request because patient safety
9	is a change following a PM review?	9	is our absolute priority."
10	<b>A.</b> Right.	10	Then we see at page 93, a document entitled there
11	<b>Q.</b> We see a list of other infants there.	11	we are, observations additional to the RCPCH review.
12	So the Dr Hawdon report is in this bundle. Then if	12	This document, I can tell you, Mr Rheinberg,
13	we go, please, to INQ0002048, page 91. We see a letter	13	includes the green text of the report, remember we
14	from the paediatricians to Mr Chambers and we see at	14	looked at the green text?
15	paragraph 2 respectfully requesting you to urgently ask	15	A. Yes.
16	the Coroner to undertake a full investigation of all the	16	<b>Q.</b> That wasn't there, all but one paragraph. It
17	deaths and unexpected collapses.	17	doesn't include the last paragraph about:
18	It sets out the Royal College Review. It sets out	18	"In the light of information shared with the Review
19	comments on Dr Hawdon's Casenote Reviews. And we see at	10	Team the RCPCH advise the Trust to follow corporate
20	paragraph 5 overleaf:	20	processes in responding to allegations of misconduct by
20	"No deaths or unexpected collapses since July 2016,	20	opening investigation."
22	unwell babies have been cared for, received intensive	21	But it does contain the other paragraphs in that
23	care and in some cases transferred to the hospitals but	23	green text?
24	their clinical courses have been far more predictable	23	LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: Ms Langdale, I know that
25	and responsive to treatment than previous cases. This	25	you know and we know about green text. But I don't
20	49	20	50
1	think the version that we looked at with Mr Rheinberg	1	Q that you hadn't seen before?
2	had green text, it was just the original.	2	A. Right.
3	<b>MS LANGDALE:</b> That is my apologies,	3	<b>Q</b> . Tell us when you had the meeting at what stage
4	Mr Rheinberg. So the findings in relation to a nurse	4	were you given those documents?
5	that you looked at earlier, remember that document?	5	A. I can't remember. It may have been at the
6	A. Yes.	6	outset. I I can't remember. In fact, I'm glad that
7	<b>Q.</b> This document has the same information in	7	I took a note of the meeting because that served to
8	it	8	remind me of the meeting. Before I read my attendance
9	A. Right.	9	note the recollection of the meeting was somewhat
10	<b>Q.</b> except for the last paragraph	10	somewhat vague.
11	A. Okay.	11	<b>Q.</b> Shall we go to your meeting note then and see
12	<b>Q</b> for our purposes.	12	what you can tell us about the meeting itself.
13	A. Right.	13	INQ0002048, page 102.
14	<b>Q</b> . But it has information about the nurse in it.	14	<b>A.</b> While we are just getting that on the screen
15	This document doesn't include the reference to advising	15	would it be unusual to have the Medical Director
16	the Trust to follow corporate processes but it sets out	16	Mr Harvey and Mr Cross coming to see you like this?
17	that sheet of paragraphs?	17	<b>A.</b> Yes. Very unusual. Not unusual for me to
18	A. Yes.	18	meet representatives from the hospital. I if I had
19	<b>Q.</b> That sheet that had the paragraphs?	19	any issues, I would often arrange for an appointment to
20	A. Okay.	20	see the Chief Executive or the Medical Director,
21	<b>Q.</b> So it appears those are three items that you	21	probably more the Medical Director than the Chief
22	are given: the Dr Hawdon report, the Consultants' letter	22	Executive. But unusual to get a delegation, as it were.
23	and the observations described as observations, that	23	<b>Q.</b> So why did you think at the time they wanted
~ 1		24	to some and acc you, what did they want to share or
24 25	section from the RCPCH review A. Right.	24 25	to come and see you, what did they want to share or discuss with you, as far as you were concerned?

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My understanding was that they wanted me to 1 Α. 2 conduct some sort of overall review, a sort of 3 independent inquiry into all the deaths, not something 4 that I would have any power or authority to do. But that, that was my general understanding, that they 5 6 wanted me to make some sort of further investigation. 7 But it was just -- I don't think I was given any 8 specific reason prior to the meeting. But that is 9 a little bit of conjecture because I cannot quite 10 remember the circumstances in which the meeting was arranged. 11 12 Q. So they were concerned about the deaths or 13 wanted a review, or you can't remember now? 14 Yes. I think the fact that I asked for Α. Alan Moore to be or suggested that he should be present 15 16 was clearly going to be relevant for ongoing themes and 17 with my retirement imminent, it was important that he shouldn't be left out of any, any discussion. 18 19 If we look at paragraph 2: Q. 20 "The first item of the enclosures is a bundle of 21 in-depth reviews into the baby deaths in question and 22 towards the end of the bundle is a sheet indicating 23 which review relates to which baby. In the case of each review, a document will be expanded and written in an 24 25 easily comprehensible form to be delivered to the 53 1 "NLR observed that Inquests can only be held when 2 there is a jurisdiction to do so and explained that the 3 Coroner must have a body within his jurisdiction and 4 have reasonable cause to suspect that the death was 5 unnatural, came with a particular further category or 6 where the cause of death was unknown. It seems to NLR 7 that in relation to the list of deaths in question they 8 may into one of a number of categories as follows." 9 Before we go to that, do you think you read that letter, you are referring to the letter, the copy of the 10 letter is enclosed, did you read it? 11 12 Α. I -- I imagine I had -- either I had or I had 13 received a summary of it, I -- I can't say which. 14 So those two documents, the Hawdon document Q. you had looked at, report, likely the letter or had it 15 summarised. What about the third one, the observations 16 document I have just taken you to from the RCPCH review? 17 Did you look at that? If it helps in your statement you 18 say "I don't recollect looking at that document"? 19 20 Α. No. I have to say I would really only be 21 guessing. I -- I can't, I have no actual collection. 22 Q. You say: 23 "If it had been the subject of any discussion, 24 I would have made reference to this in my note."

25 **A.** Yes.

parents. We will be given a copy." 1 2 So might you have gone into the notes or 3 Dr Hawdon's report in the meeting? 4 Α. Yes Q. You look uncertain there but it makes sense 5 6 from the notes, doesn't it? 7 Α. Yes, it does, yes, yes. You are talking about the report and looking 8 Q. at it so you think -- how long was this meeting, 9 10 roughly, do you know now? I don't remember it being very long, possibly 11 Α. because I wasn't delivering what they hoped I would 12 13 deliver. 14 I -- at a guess I would say about 30 minutes. But that -- that is only a bit of a guess. 15 16 So it looks as though you have got -- you were Q. 17 sighted on the Hawdon Review or at least the babies --Α. 18 Yes. 19 Q. -- that they were looking at. 20 Then we have got the clinicians from the neonatal 21 unit have written to the Chief Executive and a copy of that letter is also enclosed? 22 23 Α. Yes. 24 Q. They are asking for the Coroner to hold an 25 Inquest in each case. 54 1 Q. But you can't remember now one way or another?

2 I can't remember. When I do take a note of Δ 3 a meeting or a conversation, I do try to make it 4 comprehensive and I would hope that relevant matters 5 that were raised or whatever would appear in -- in my 6 note. No point in making a note if it isn't 7 comprehensive. 8 Q. But --But since I have no recollection, I can't --9 Α. 10 can't say one way or the other. 11 If we look at the six points you make, then, O. can you just summarise for us now what you say? 12 Well, I am explaining that in those cases 13 Α. 14 where I have already had held an Inquest, I can't go back over it because I have no legal authority to do so. 15 16 I have explained that where I have, or my one of my deputies has signed a part A, a form 100A, indicating 17 that the Coroner does not intend to exercise any 18 jurisdiction, there are problems in holding an Inquest 19 20 subsequently, the principal one of which being that you don't have a body lying within your jurisdiction, so you 21 22 would need to get permission from the Chief Coroner 23 under section 2 of the Act. 24 I'm explaining in clause 3 that I am not functus

25 officio, as it were, I am not without jurisdiction if 56

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1	I have discontinued an investigation and further
2	information has has come to light.
3	Then I refer to deaths already listed for Inquest,
4	obviously those can be heard, and then deaths where
5	investigations are ongoing.
6	Then I say, I'm not sure that it is very elegant:
7	"NLR made it clear that the Coroner's office does
8	not operate as a system of governance."
9	I got really got the idea that what the Consultants
10	wanted was me to have an overall review of all the cases
11	to see if there were any, any mistakes or any common
12	themes or whatever. And I was explaining that that
13	I don't have jurisdiction to do to do that, no
14	authority to carry out a general review, as it were,
15	only to hold an Inquest into a specific death.
16	Q. Thank you.
17	Just finally from me, in terms of the bundle, can
18	you remember now having it with you and being able to
19	flick through that?
20	<b>A.</b> I don't, no, I'm afraid.
21	<b>Q.</b> But it's reasonable looking at that as though
22	you would have had it and at least been cross-referring
23	to it?
24	<b>A.</b> It may well be the case. It's all a matter of
25	interpretation from my note. I haven't got any actual
20	57
1	<b>A.</b> No.
2	<b>Q</b> . I am not going to put the note of the meetings
3	to you.
4	A. Right.
5	<b>Q.</b> But it is fair to say at this meeting and at
6	other meetings at this time there was discussion about
7	the Consultants' concerns about Lucy Letby?
8	A. Concerns about?
9	Q. Lucy Letby.
10	A. Oh, yes, okay.
11	<b>Q</b> . In particular, at the meeting in question on
12	the 29th, Dr Brearey mentioned her being a common theme
13	between the deaths as early as July 2015, after which,
14	as you know, three children had died
15	<b>A.</b> Yes
16	<b>Q.</b> including Child A. They described the
17	types of deterioration that the babies suffered which
18	were sudden and unexpected, the fact that they didn't
19	respond to resuscitation measures as would be expected
19 20	respond to resuscitation measures as would be expected and Dr Jayaram speculated that there may be some issue
20	and Dr Jayaram speculated that there may be some issue
20 21	and Dr Jayaram speculated that there may be some issue with injection of air and air embolism via a cannula.
20 21 22	and Dr Jayaram speculated that there may be some issue with injection of air and air embolism via a cannula. But of course that discussion didn't evolve into
20 21 22 23	and Dr Jayaram speculated that there may be some issue with injection of air and air embolism via a cannula. But of course that discussion didn't evolve into any particular investigation as you know.
20 21 22 23 24	and Dr Jayaram speculated that there may be some issue with injection of air and air embolism via a cannula. But of course that discussion didn't evolve into any particular investigation as you know. They in particular discussed the Twins on a number

1	recollection.
2	<b>Q.</b> But from those present at the meeting with
3	you, Mr Harvey and Mr Cross, it's a fair assumption for
4	them to make that you have got that information
5	A. Yes.
6	<b>Q.</b> or you can see that information?
7	A. I I can't challenge that.
8	<b>MS LANGDALE:</b> Thank you, those are my questions.
9 10	<ul> <li>A. Thank you.</li> <li>LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: Mr Skelton.</li> </ul>
10	Questions by MR SKELTON
12	MR SKELTON: Mr Rheinberg, I ask questions on
13	behalf of one of the Family groups
14	<b>A.</b> Yes, thank you.
15	<b>Q.</b> including the Family of Child A, whose
16	Inquest was conducted in 2016. After the death of the
17	two Triplets O&P in June 2016, there were a series of
18	internal meetings at the hospital attended by the
19	Consultants and the Executives.
20	One such meeting took place on 29 June and was
21	attended by Dr Brearey, Dr Saladi, Dr Jayaram, Mr Cross,
22	and Mr Harvey.
23	A. Okay.
24	<b>Q.</b> You won't have been aware of these internal
25	meetings?
	58
1	Twins survived but they had both collapsed, as you know?
2	A. Yes.
3	<b>Q.</b> Child A had a Twin who also collapsed but
4	fortunately survived, Child B.
5	All of this I think you were entirely unaware of
6	A. Completely.
7	<b>Q.</b> throughout 2015 and 2016?
8	A. Yes, and it's horribly disappointing.
9	<b>Q.</b> That is exactly what I was going to ask you
10	about, Mr Rheinberg.
11	A. Yes.
12	Q. Would you have expected Mr Cross or someone
13	else prior to Child A's Inquest to have raised those
14	types of concerns with you as the Coroner?
15	A. Absolutely. It was all within the the
16	ethos of the SUDI Sudden Unexpected Infant Death
17	protocol, that we should approach all these tragedies
18	not just in our own ivory towers; that we should share
19	all information because we might individually have
20	pieces of the picture to put together.
21	So police, hospital, everybody that has anything to
22	add should add to the discussion, as I say, to complete
23 24	a full picture what have has happened. And within Cheshire, the protocol went out under my badge, as it
24 25	were, so I was the I was to be the co-ordinator of
20	60

action, if action was required. 1 2 So the protocol went out initially in my -- by this 3 time it had been superseded by further iterations of the 4 document but the initial intention was that the Coroner's office should be the focus for the inquiries 5 6 partly because of course the Coroner's office had powers 7 that the others didn't have. 8 So yes, I'm sorry, I have rambled on a bit but 9 very, very disappointing that relevant information is 10 not shared. 11 Q. Just on the SUDiC protocol, is that a local protocol that you would have assisted in drafting? 12 13 Yes. I think the first protocol was produced Α. in 2001, it -- there was a general -- up until that time 14 there had been a general feeling across the country that 15 16 there should be better co-ordination in relation to 17 infant deaths and I forget which area had produced the first protocol; it may have been Sussex, it may have 18 19 been Suffolk, I can't remember, but a very excellent 20 document. 21 And I think I'm right in saying that the 22 triumvirate, me, Dr Nisar Mir and Dr Ruth Spedding, who 23 put together the initial protocol, leant very heavily on that, that precedent, as it were, because it was a very 24 25 good document. 61 1 But any individual that had that information should 2 could and should have passed it on, whether by informal 3 chat with me or through one of my officers. 4 Q. Your evidence I think in writing and today was 5 a suspicion of that type immediately warrants contact 6 with the police, formally or informally? 7 Α. Absolutely. And I -- I think I explained the 8 mechanism in my statement. 9 Q. Yes. 10 Α. One of the participants or one of the SUDI team, as it were, was Inspector Mark Tasker and I think 11 probably on getting information such as that, I might 12 13 have gone straight to Inspector Tasker because he -- he would have all relevant knowledge about procedures 14 within the police force for investigating deaths such as 15 16 this. 17 Do you take that view, that that contact with Q. the police is required, notwithstanding that at that 18 stage all you have is the opinion of the Consultant or 19 20 body of Consultants? 21 Yes. The relationship with the police was Α. 22 a close one. I have already explained about my officers 23 being employed by the -- by the -- the police and on 24 many occasions because I only had a limited amount of

25 officers, it was the police that were investigating on

Q. Just in terms of specifics. How would that --1 2 those concerns have been or how should they have been 3 communicated to you, by whom and by what means? 4 I suppose that we are talking about Α. a discussion after -- some time after the events, as it 5 6 were. In the initial stages under the protocol, there 7 would be a first meeting within 72 hours, when representatives from hospital, police, paediatricians, 8 9 et cetera, would decide on a strategy for further 10 investigation. 11 Now, that tended to occur almost exclusively for deaths in the -- in the community rather than in 12 hospital, although the mechanism was there to be 13 14 employed for the -- in the hospital as well. 15 But under the spirit of the -- the protocol which 16 the hospital had or the hospitals in Cheshire had 17 contributed to the discussions, any information that was relevant should be passed on to the Coroner. But quite 18 19 outside the protocol, that -- that should be the case in 20 any event. I am holding Inquests, I need information. 21 I am holding investigations. I need people to be 22 forthcoming with information. 23 Q. Would you have expected Mr Cross to have 24 contacted you with that type of information? 25 Α. As apparent spokesman, yes. 62 1 my behalf. And in cases where the -- there was any 2 suspicion of a gross failure within a hospital, the 3 first thing that I would do would be contact the police 4 to seize medical records, not that I distrusted the 5 medics, as it were, but I didn't want any possibility of 6 notes being interfered with or written up subsequently. 7 So yes, I -- I would contact the police in the 8 event of a suspicion. Ms Langdale asked you about the Serious 9 Q. Untoward Incident or Serious Incident Investigation? 10 Α. Yes. 11 There is a series of correspondence by email 12 Q. and by letter which you express a great deal of 13 14 frustration about the non-production of that? 15 Α. Yes, yes. 16 Q. How common was it for the hospital or other hospitals in your jurisdiction not to produce a report 17 that you requested like that? 18 19 If it -- there was often a delay not -- not so Α. 20 much in the production of the report but in the disclosure of the report but in the actual preparation 21 22 of the report. But invariably when a report was 23 available and I had requested a copy, it -- the hospital 24 would provide it.

25 **Q.** Your answer may be understood as if one is 64

already there --1 2 Α. Yes. 3 Q. -- you would expect to get it, but if they 4 haven't already done an investigation but you are saying 5 "one is needed and I need to see a report" would that --6 Α. Okay, clearly my understanding was that this 7 -- there was an ongoing specific investigation. So my expectation would be immediately any report was produced 8 9 that I had requested, it -- a copy you would be provided 10 to me. 11 Q. But not that they would do one to your direction? 12 13 Α. No. No, I didn't have any power to do this. I -- I might make strong suggestions that this would, 14 was an appropriate course for them to take, but not 15 16 something that I could demand. 17 Q. You were provided a copy I think of the Thematic Review that had been conducted at the end of 18 19 2015 --20 Α. Yes. 21 Q. -- into 2016. Do you recall whether or not 22 that version of the report that you saw identified that 23 the babies had suddenly deteriorated and that was 24 a common factor across the mortality? 25 Α. I can't -- I can't recall. I can't recall 65 1 Α. Yes. And that you can see he is saying they have 2 Q. 3 indicated they are entirely satisfied with the care 4 within the neonatal unit and raise no concerns, however 5 they recommended the detailed forensic Casenote Review 6 of each of the deaths. And you were aware of that from 7 this email? 8 Α. Yes, yes. 9 You weren't, I think, provided with Q. Dr Hawdon's instructions specifically? 10 Α. 11 No 12 Q. Can I just ask you to look at those on the screen as well, please, that is INQ0012066. And the 13 reason I ask you to look at this, Mr Rheinberg, if you 14 could just have at that first substantive paragraph 2? 15 16 Α. Paragraph? 17 Q. Paragraph 2 made a bit bigger because it is quite hard to read on the screen? 18 Okay, yes. Thank you. 19 Α. 20 That's it, if you just take a moment to read Q. that, Mr Rheinberg, please? 21 22 Yes. Α. 23 (Pause) 24 Yes, thank you. 25 So the information in that paragraph is not Q.

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1 now. 2 Q. Dr Hawdon's review, Mr Cross emailed you and I think may we have the email on the screen just to sort 3 of anchor the period of time on 6 October, INQ0053069. 4 You will see the email there to you from Mr Cross at the 5 6 bottom 7 Mr Rheinberg, just by way of summary as you 8 probably have picked up there was a lot going on after June and that included the instruction of the 9 10 Royal College to do a review? 11 Α. Yes Q. And their recommendation that a forensic 12 Casenote Review --13 14 Α. Yes 15 Q. -- or detailed forensic Casenote Review be 16 done and Dr Hawdon was instructed as a result of that --17 Α. Yes. Q. 18 -- before in fact the College had formally 19 reported? 20 Α. Right. 21 Q. They advised in writing that that was needed? 22 Α. Yes 23 Q. I think what is happening here is Mr Cross is 24 contacting you before the formal report but with the 25 recommendation that a Casenote Review be conducted? 66 1 provided to you by Mr Cross, but this is the justification that the Royal College give and you will 2 3 see that it raises a few issues and in particular the 4 pattern of deaths? 5 Α. Yes 6 Q. The mode of deterioration in some of them 7 which is unusual --8 Α. Yes -- and requires further inquiry. 9 Q. Is that the type of information that you needed to 10 know when you were approaching Child A's Inquest? 11 It -- it would be extremely helpful. I think 12 Α. 13 one of the things that wasn't undertaken in relation to 14 Child A's Inquest was an independent examination of evidence by an expert instructed by me. 15 16 The more information that I had raising questions, 17 might well have prompted me to get independent expert 18 advice. 19 Is the fact that the mode of deterioration is 0 20 unusual and there is a cluster of children itself something that you as Coroner would be concerned by? 21 22 Α. Certainly it would be a factor, yes. 23 Q. Something to --24 Α. Of concern, yes.

25 **Q.** Something to investigate?

(17) Pages 65 - 68

1	A. Yes.
2	Q. I won't ask you to read the whole document but
3 4	it does mention you will see in paragraph
4 5	A. Sorry, can I just sorry, just to give
5 6	put that in context with a case that I was dealing with at that time with a cluster of deaths at an old people's
7	
, 8	home that appeared to relate to the fact that they had been lock, stock and barrel moved from another home and
9	then had died within a period of time.
10	That was an investigation that I had an expert
11	undertake because of the fact of a an apparent common
12	theme.
13	<b>Q.</b> Would you have considered the other baby
14	mortalities that occurred in the neonatal unit and
15	thought: well do I need to start looking at these
16	together rather than independently?
17	<b>A.</b> I yes, if there was any common theme
18	identified then, yes, that, that was certainly something
19	to take into consideration.
20	I have it in mind, however, on the other hand the
21	fact that I knew that there was an independent
22	investigation being undertaken by the Royal College, so
23	that is something also I would take into into
24	account. I'm not sure if I had been given that
25	knowledge how the balance would, would have tipped;
	69
1	straws to find an answer.
1 2	straws to find an answer. So if there was any suggestion provided that there
2	So if there was any suggestion provided that there
2 3	So if there was any suggestion provided that there might have been another mechanism, that is something
2 3 4	So if there was any suggestion provided that there might have been another mechanism, that is something I definitely would have wanted to explore.
2 3 4 5	So if there was any suggestion provided that there might have been another mechanism, that is something I definitely would have wanted to explore. Q. At the Inquest, Dr Jayaram gave evidence
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	So if there was any suggestion provided that there might have been another mechanism, that is something I definitely would have wanted to explore. Q. At the Inquest, Dr Jayaram gave evidence A. Yes.
2 3 4 5 6 7	So if there was any suggestion provided that there might have been another mechanism, that is something I definitely would have wanted to explore. Q. At the Inquest, Dr Jayaram gave evidence A. Yes. Q twice.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	So if there was any suggestion provided that there might have been another mechanism, that is something I definitely would have wanted to explore. Q. At the Inquest, Dr Jayaram gave evidence A. Yes. Q twice. He first gave evidence about his own involvement with the child? A. Yes.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	So if there was any suggestion provided that there might have been another mechanism, that is something I definitely would have wanted to explore. Q. At the Inquest, Dr Jayaram gave evidence A. Yes. Q twice. He first gave evidence about his own involvement with the child? A. Yes. Q. And then I think you brought him back after
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	So if there was any suggestion provided that there might have been another mechanism, that is something I definitely would have wanted to explore. Q. At the Inquest, Dr Jayaram gave evidence A. Yes. Q twice. He first gave evidence about his own involvement with the child? A. Yes. Q. And then I think you brought him back after speaking to the pathologist to explain his opinion? A. Yes. Q. So was he in that sort of quasi expert role
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	So if there was any suggestion provided that there might have been another mechanism, that is something I definitely would have wanted to explore. Q. At the Inquest, Dr Jayaram gave evidence A. Yes. Q twice. He first gave evidence about his own involvement with the child? A. Yes. Q. And then I think you brought him back after speaking to the pathologist to explain his opinion? A. Yes. Q. So was he in that sort of quasi expert role that you previously described?
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	So if there was any suggestion provided that there might have been another mechanism, that is something I definitely would have wanted to explore. <b>Q.</b> At the Inquest, Dr Jayaram gave evidence <b>A.</b> Yes. <b>Q.</b> twice. He first gave evidence about his own involvement with the child? <b>A.</b> Yes. <b>Q.</b> And then I think you brought him back after speaking to the pathologist to explain his opinion? <b>A.</b> Yes. <b>Q.</b> So was he in that sort of quasi expert role that you previously described? <b>A.</b> Yes, absolutely. <b>Q.</b> So you are looking to him to assist you on <b>A.</b> Yes. <b>Q.</b> possibilities at that point?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	So if there was any suggestion provided that there might have been another mechanism, that is something I definitely would have wanted to explore. Q. At the Inquest, Dr Jayaram gave evidence A. Yes. Q twice. He first gave evidence about his own involvement with the child? A. Yes. Q. And then I think you brought him back after speaking to the pathologist to explain his opinion? A. Yes. Q. So was he in that sort of quasi expert role that you previously described? A. Yes, absolutely. Q. So you are looking to him to assist you on A. Yes. Q possibilities at that point? A. Yes.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	So if there was any suggestion provided that there might have been another mechanism, that is something I definitely would have wanted to explore. <b>Q.</b> At the Inquest, Dr Jayaram gave evidence <b>A.</b> Yes. <b>Q.</b> twice. He first gave evidence about his own involvement with the child? <b>A.</b> Yes. <b>Q.</b> And then I think you brought him back after speaking to the pathologist to explain his opinion? <b>A.</b> Yes. <b>Q.</b> So was he in that sort of quasi expert role that you previously described? <b>A.</b> Yes, absolutely. <b>Q.</b> So you are looking to him to assist you on <b>A.</b> Yes. <b>Q.</b> possibilities at that point? <b>A.</b> Yes. <b>Q.</b> Rather than the facts of what he did or didn't
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	So if there was any suggestion provided that there might have been another mechanism, that is something I definitely would have wanted to explore. <b>Q.</b> At the Inquest, Dr Jayaram gave evidence <b>A.</b> Yes. <b>Q.</b> twice. He first gave evidence about his own involvement with the child? <b>A.</b> Yes. <b>Q.</b> And then I think you brought him back after speaking to the pathologist to explain his opinion? <b>A.</b> Yes. <b>Q.</b> So was he in that sort of quasi expert role that you previously described? <b>A.</b> Yes, absolutely. <b>Q.</b> So you are looking to him to assist you on <b>A.</b> Yes. <b>Q.</b> possibilities at that point? <b>A.</b> Yes. <b>Q.</b> Rather than the facts of what he did or didn't do?
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	So if there was any suggestion provided that there might have been another mechanism, that is something I definitely would have wanted to explore. <b>Q.</b> At the Inquest, Dr Jayaram gave evidence <b>A.</b> Yes. <b>Q.</b> twice. He first gave evidence about his own involvement with the child? <b>A.</b> Yes. <b>Q.</b> And then I think you brought him back after speaking to the pathologist to explain his opinion? <b>A.</b> Yes. <b>Q.</b> So was he in that sort of quasi expert role that you previously described? <b>A.</b> Yes, absolutely. <b>Q.</b> So you are looking to him to assist you on <b>A.</b> Yes. <b>Q.</b> possibilities at that point? <b>A.</b> Yes. <b>Q.</b> Rather than the facts of what he did or didn't do?

whether I had thought, well, it's been looked into, or 1 whether I would have thought: I -- I better take this up 2 3 independently. 4 I -- I can't -- I can't say which way I -- I would 5 have gone. 6 Q. What appears to occur at the Inquest into 7 Child A, which I will come on to in a minute, if I may? 8 Α. Yes. Q. 9 Is that you are looking to try and test what 10 might have happened to this child to cause death? 11 Α. Yes. Q. Because on the face of it the doctors and 12 pathologist aren't able to provide a --13 14 Α. No. An explanation that satisfies you. 15 Q. 16 If you had known that this investigation was going 17 on independently, and also if you see from sub-paragraph (c) that it was going to be looking at 18 19 rare conditions, such as air embolism and metabolic 20 derangement, how would you have responded to that fact? Yes. It would be a line that I would want to 21 Α. 22 have been looked into. All that I have at, before the 23 Inquest is a question mark: these could have been causes of death, the error with the line, the crossed pulmonary 24 25 artery, but not, not a -- it was rather grabbing at 70 1 expertise to explain as well. 2 Q. As I set out earlier in my preface to the 3 questions, Dr Jayaram was in fact suspicious of 4 Lucy Letby at that time and also suspected that she may have injected air into one or more children and was 5 6 suspicious about Child A's death in particular. He has 7 accepted he should have mentioned that suspicion to you. 8 Can I ask for your reaction to that? Yes. Absolute horror. Why, why not? Why 9 Α. wouldn't you? I -- I think in those, if that had come 10 out at the Inquest, I would have adjourned, I wouldn't 11 have gone on any further, and probably sought police 12 13 involvement. 14 Q. Likewise in respect presumably of Dr Saladi although his role at the Inquest was much more minor but 15 he was aware of the suspicions and indeed shared them as 16 17 well? 18 Yes. It -- it does seem extraordinary. Α. Can I ask you --19 Q. 20 Α. Can I ask, did either of these individuals explain why they hadn't brought that information out? 21 22 Q. lt's --

23 LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: I think that is probably

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- 24 a matter for me to determine. You can certainly read
- 25 the transcripts if you want.

1	A. It's inappropriate, I beg your pardon.
2	LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: No, it's all right.
3	MR SKELTON: The hospital were represented at the
4	Inquest and there is a question about what their
5	counsel, who is a senior barrister at that point,
6	Mr Browne, knew.
7	But it is clear and he has accepted that he was
8	told prior to the Inquest that there was some connection
9	between a specific nurse and Child A which the hospital
10	had been considering?
11	<ul> <li>A. Right.</li> <li>Q. He was also aware of Dr Hawdon's instructions</li> </ul>
12 13	-
13	and which is still on screen in front of you which I have taken you through?
14	A. Yes.
16	<b>Q</b> . I can't put it any higher than that because
17	Mr Browne, to be fair to him, has not got a clear
18	recollection?
19	A. Yes.
20	<b>Q</b> . And note isn't precise about exactly what he
21	was told?
22	A. Okay.
23	<b>Q.</b> He was aware of a connection between a nurse
24	and indeed had asked that some research be done to see
25	if the nurse was involved with Child A's care?
	73
1	this is relevant, you must either disclose this
1 2	this is relevant, you must either disclose this vourselves, if you will not do so I am bound by my own
2	yourselves, if you will not do so I am bound by my own
2 3	yourselves, if you will not do so I am bound by my own professional conduct and must withdraw from this particular set of instructions.
2 3 4	yourselves, if you will not do so I am bound by my own professional conduct and must withdraw from this
2 3 4 5	yourselves, if you will not do so I am bound by my own professional conduct and must withdraw from this particular set of instructions. But one way or another I would expect a legal representative to seek to have that information brought
2 3 4 5 6	yourselves, if you will not do so I am bound by my own professional conduct and must withdraw from this particular set of instructions. But one way or another I would expect a legal
2 3 4 5 6 7	yourselves, if you will not do so I am bound by my own professional conduct and must withdraw from this particular set of instructions. But one way or another I would expect a legal representative to seek to have that information brought to the attention of the Inquest.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	yourselves, if you will not do so I am bound by my own professional conduct and must withdraw from this particular set of instructions. But one way or another I would expect a legal representative to seek to have that information brought to the attention of the Inquest. Q. Just finally on Child A's Inquest can I just
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	yourselves, if you will not do so I am bound by my own professional conduct and must withdraw from this particular set of instructions. But one way or another I would expect a legal representative to seek to have that information brought to the attention of the Inquest. <b>Q.</b> Just finally on Child A's Inquest can I just ask for your overall observations on the Inquest and in
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	yourselves, if you will not do so I am bound by my own professional conduct and must withdraw from this particular set of instructions. But one way or another I would expect a legal representative to seek to have that information brought to the attention of the Inquest. <b>Q.</b> Just finally on Child A's Inquest can I just ask for your overall observations on the Inquest and in particular the position of the Family. I think as you
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	<ul> <li>yourselves, if you will not do so I am bound by my own professional conduct and must withdraw from this particular set of instructions.</li> <li>But one way or another I would expect a legal representative to seek to have that information brought to the attention of the Inquest.</li> <li>Q. Just finally on Child A's Inquest can I just ask for your overall observations on the Inquest and in particular the position of the Family. I think as you are aware, because you were in contact with them, the</li> </ul>
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	<ul> <li>yourselves, if you will not do so I am bound by my own professional conduct and must withdraw from this particular set of instructions.</li> <li>But one way or another I would expect a legal representative to seek to have that information brought to the attention of the Inquest.</li> <li>Q. Just finally on Child A's Inquest can I just ask for your overall observations on the Inquest and in particular the position of the Family. I think as you are aware, because you were in contact with them, the Family were represented and they were extremely anxious</li> </ul>
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	<ul> <li>yourselves, if you will not do so I am bound by my own professional conduct and must withdraw from this particular set of instructions.</li> <li>But one way or another I would expect a legal representative to seek to have that information brought to the attention of the Inquest.</li> <li>Q. Just finally on Child A's Inquest can I just ask for your overall observations on the Inquest and in particular the position of the Family. I think as you are aware, because you were in contact with them, the Family were represented and they were extremely anxious to find out why Child A had died?</li> </ul>
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	<ul> <li>yourselves, if you will not do so I am bound by my own professional conduct and must withdraw from this particular set of instructions.</li> <li>But one way or another I would expect a legal representative to seek to have that information brought to the attention of the Inquest.</li> <li>Q. Just finally on Child A's Inquest can I just ask for your overall observations on the Inquest and in particular the position of the Family. I think as you are aware, because you were in contact with them, the Family were represented and they were extremely anxious to find out why Child A had died?</li> <li>A. Absolutely yes.</li> <li>Q. Many, many months had passed since his death</li> </ul>
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	<ul> <li>yourselves, if you will not do so I am bound by my own professional conduct and must withdraw from this particular set of instructions.</li> <li>But one way or another I would expect a legal representative to seek to have that information brought to the attention of the Inquest.</li> <li>Q. Just finally on Child A's Inquest can I just ask for your overall observations on the Inquest and in particular the position of the Family. I think as you are aware, because you were in contact with them, the Family were represented and they were extremely anxious to find out why Child A had died?</li> <li>A. Absolutely yes.</li> <li>Q. Many, many months had passed since his death and they still didn't have any answers?</li> </ul>
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1 Α. Okay. 2 Q. Had advised that that fact be disclosed to the Family? 3 4 Δ. Yes As far as you were concerned, the Coroner at 5 Q. 6 the Inquest, would you expect counsel to raise that 7 issue with you the fact that the hospital were considering a nurse and her connection to the Child A's 8 death? 9 10 Okay. Answering more generally, first of all. Α. 11 It's been my happy experience that the more senior the counsel attending an Inquest the more they embrace 12 the philosophy, if you like, that an Inquest -- that 13 they are here to assist the inquiry. 14 So it's been my experience that in asking questions 15 16 of their witness, if there is relevant information, even 17 if it might detract from their own client's position, that that question will be asked. So going back to the 18 19 specific. If counsel knew of serious concerns, then, 20 I would expect at the very least for those concerns to 21 be put as questions to their witness so that the matter 22 came out in the open. 23 I'm not sure what the legal position would be so far as the barrister actually informing the Coroner. 24 25 I -- I suppose the correct course of action would be: 74 1 From my own point of view, I was not happy with the 2 Inquest. It didn't really achieve very much. It 3 brought the legal process to an end, but without any --4 without any solid answers and sadly that is, that --5 that can be the case; that the evidence just isn't 6 there. It can't be, can't be found. 7 But it was a disappointment that nothing really 8 very solid emerged from that Inquest. 9 Q. In this case I was asking you specifically about the fact that the hospital were aware of things 10 that related to Child A's death but that was never 11 brought to the family's attention via the Inquest 12 13 process? 14 Right. No, to put it mildly, that is Α. 15 extraordinarily disappointing. Q. After the Inquest you had contact with --16 continuing contact with the hospital. Ms Langdale has 17 asked you about the various meetings --18 Α. 19 Yes. 20 Q. -- and the correspondence that you had. 21 Can I be clear that at no time did Mr Harvey or 22 Mr Cross or anyone else bring the -- raise the concerns 23 directly in terms with you and discuss them with you? 24 Α. No. 25 Q. Your answer to what you would have done is 76

(19) Pages 73 - 76

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1	exactly the same in terms of contacting the police
2	A. Yes.
3	<b>Q</b> and setting in train a series of
4	investigations through that means?
5	A. Yes. I used probably it was regarded as
6	a bit of a pain but I would go to the police with any
7	suggestion of criminality. As I am sure you can
8	imagine, an Coroners office in an area as large as
9	Cheshire gets a fair number of crank email
10	correspondence. The block capitals, underlined, green
11	ink sort of style.
12	Some of these will relate to totally irrelevant
13	matters, some will allege criminality no matter how
14 15	extraordinary or however unlikely, or however it may be
15 16	almost crystal clear that the person in question is
17	mentally ill. All such communication was sent to the police for investigation with the instruction that I was
18	to be informed as to the as to the result of that
19	investigation.
20	So there would be no case of me withholding
20	information such as that from the police. It didn't
22	mean that it had my endorsement, it didn't mean that
23	I was saying somebody was guilty of a crime. It was
24	I was just asking in each case: please investigate.
25	<b>Q</b> . Even after Child A's Inquest had concluded,
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1	Child A and other children. But focusing on Child A
2	A. Yes.
3	<b>Q.</b> the reasons for that, of course, are the
4	focus of this Inquiry, at least one of its focuses.
5	But can you think of any reform or recommendations
6	that could be made to stop that from happening again?
7	A. Well, it it's so much a matter of
8	professional conduct and particularly in this era of
9	full disclosure, et cetera, it it's difficult to see
10	how existing professional standards don't cover it
11	already. But I can't think of anything over and above
12	what is in existence already that could be brought
13	into into play.
14	<b>Q.</b> Could it be for example that it should be made
15	clear in policy and guidance that if a member of staff
16	is suspicious that a child may have died from deliberate
17	harm, no higher than that, that you at least must be
18	informed?
19	A. Yes. And of course there is a duty which
20	I think is reproduced as a medical standard that the
21	
	Coroner must be informed. Back to the Middle Ages, it's
22	always been the case that there is a duty to inform the
22 23	always been the case that there is a duty to inform the Coroner. It's nothing new.
22	always been the case that there is a duty to inform the

- and as you said you were functus officio by that stage -A. Yes, yes.
  Q. -- if evidence or information comes to your attention which may mean that the result of the Inquest is wrong -A. Yes.
  Q. That is something that you can raise as being
- 8 Q. That is something that you can raise as being9 a possible?
- 10 **A.** Absolutely and I have judicially reviewed
- 11 myself. One case in particular where really very
- 12 pertinent information came out due to an advance in
- 13 medical understanding which showed that what had been
- 14 delivered as an open verdict in fact had a -- a very
- 15 specific cause and because it -- it was so important
- 16 even though the appropriate conclusion would be natural
- 17 causes as opposed to open, the matter in my view was so
- 18 important that I -- I sought to set aside the original
- 19 Inquest and start again, as it were.
- 20 So being functus officio doesn't -- well, A,
- 21 obviously stop me passing on information to the police;
- 22 but also it doesn't stop me going to the High Court to
- 23 get my Inquest set aside.

25 not provided with relevant information in respect of 78

1	LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: Mr Baker.
2	Questions by MR BAKER
3	MR BAKER: Good afternoon, Mr Rheinberg, I ask
4	questions on behalf of the other two Family groups.
5	A. Yes, thank you.
6	<b>Q.</b> I want to begin by asking about sharing
7	learning between different Coroner areas.
8	A. Okay.
9	<b>Q.</b> So there are a number of different Coroner
10	areas across North West
11	A. Yes.
12	<b>Q.</b> of England?
13	A. Yes.
14	<b>Q.</b> Many of them adjacent to each other?
15	A. Yes.
16	<b>Q.</b> Do the Coroners Senior Coroners meet up and
17	exchange information, learning or experience at all?
18	A. Yes. I was because my jurisdiction was
19	contiguous to them, I was brought into the I was
20	going to say "club", it sounds entirely wrong, but the
21	Manchester Coroners held regular meetings and I was
22	invited to join that group, as it were, so that we
23	should strive to be consistent, nothing worse than
24	having the Coroner in Cheshire acting completely outside
25	the the practice of the Manchester Coroners.

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<sup>24</sup> Q. In this case, again stepping back, you were

Wider than that, we have the North West Coroners 1 2 Society meeting regularly, having education sessions and 3 to a certain extent acting as a discussion point. 4 Not so much though, perhaps, but what has been 5 a unifying factor since before 2013 has been the 6 appointment of the Chief Coroner --7 Q. Yes 8 -- and that has been enormously helpful. For Α. 9 the first time it sounds extraordinary to say this but 10 for the first time ever education is compulsory and not something that you -- you go to if you happen to have 11 the time to spare and we -- we have all the Practice 12 Directions, legal sheets et cetera, very, very helpful 13 in trying to get unity of practice. 14 15 Q. Yes. Now --16 Α. It doesn't answer your question because of 17 course you are asking about sharing information. 18 Q. It goes to the next question, in fact? 19 Α. Yes 20 Q. Because of course the crimes of Harold Shipman were committed not in your jurisdiction but immediately 21 22 adjacent to your jurisdiction? 23 Α. Yes, yes. 24 Q. Did the Shipman crimes and subsequent Inquiry 25 trigger any discussion or training provided to Coroners 81 1 about a single nurse being present for all of those 2 deaths, or at crucial points during them, is it fair for 3 the Chair to infer that if that had been drawn to your 4 attention, it would have immediately triggered an alarm 5 bell for you? 6 Α. Yes, it would certainly trigger an alarm bell 7 I'm not sure that I would discuss it with -- with colleagues on the basis that --8 9 Q. No. no? 10 Α. -- at that stage it would be tittle-tattle. 11 O. Yes. As opposed to something to be taken into 12 Α. 13 account. 14 Q. I suppose the point I am making is that by the 15 time we get to 2016/2017 --16 Α. Yes 17 Q. -- there has been so much discussion arising out of Shipman, you have had incidents at Stepping Hill 18 Hospital, you have had your own experience of a spike of 19 20 deaths in a care home which you described --21 Α. Yes 22 Q. -- all of that learning and information would 23 have put you on heightened alert, wouldn't it, to 24 information surrounding suspicions about a nurse being 25 involved in deaths in a hospital? 83

including yourself in the North West? 1 2 Α. Yes, a huge amount. It, it -- we all looked 3 at our practices and it had a huge impact also on 4 doctors, particularly lead general practitioners who started reporting absolutely everything and the -- it 5 6 was what we described as "the Shipman effect". So it --7 it didn't actually paralyze the service but it did lead 8 to a whole lot of inappropriate referrals. 9 Q. Yes, but a greater awareness? 10 It created a huge awareness and, I mean, it Α. sent a horrible shudder throughout -- well, through all 11 the Coroners: could this occur in my jurisdiction? 12 And in 2015, Victorino Chua was convicted of 13 Q. committing murders at Stepping Hill hospital? 14 15 Α. Yes 16 Q. Of course that would have fallen within 17 Manchester South's jurisdiction. But again, do you recall any discussions in 2015 as part of the Manchester 18 19 group relating to the crimes of Stepping Hill hospital 20 at? 21 I am sure there will have been -- I cannot Α. 22 bring them to mind now. 23 Q. All this brings us to this: if your attention had been drawn to a cluster of unusual, unexpected, 24 25 sudden, unexplained deaths with comments or concerns 82 1 Α. Yes. Absolutely. Perhaps relevant to mention 2 a murderous nurse in one of my hospitals, Leighton 3 Hospital. 4 Q. Yes. 5 Α. There are certain parallels in that case 6 parallels, this nurse was -- it's not an appropriate 7 word but euthanasing individuals in a way that was 8 absolutely undetectable. She was choosing victims at 9 the end of their life typically suffering from congestive cardiac failure which leads to a build-up of 10 fluid on the lungs and the simple expedient that she was 11 using was removing a pillow so that in effect the victim 12 13 was dying almost drowning on their own fluid. 14 Absolutely no sign at postmortem. But a very 15 terrible state of circumstances. 16 O. How did that come to your attention? 17 Α. I can't now remember. It was very early on --Q. 18 Yes. -- fortunately and the nurse in question was 19 Α. 20 arrested. It wasn't this sort of timescale. 21 Q. No, but given all of that experience --22 Α. Yes

- 23 Q. -- one of the issues the Chair may have to
- 24 determine is what information was provided to you about
- 25 suspicions regard Lucy Letby?
  - 84

1	A. Yes, yes.	
2	<b>Q</b> . Would it not be fair to say that given your	
3	experience, given the general level of sensitivity	
4	towards crimes in hospital or Coroner sensitivity	
5	towards the possibility of crimes that if it was raised	
6	with you in any sort of explicit way, that you would	
7	have acted immediately upon it?	
8	A. Yes, of course.	
9	<b>Q.</b> Yes. Moving on to a slightly different topic.	
10	You were asked a question by Ms Langdale about	
11	challenges sometimes in finding the cause of death in	
12 13	a neonate and it is correct the Inquiry has heard	
13 14	evidence from Dr McPartland that it can sometimes be challenging to identify a cause of death at postmortem?	
14	A. Yes.	
16	<b>Q.</b> That's because for a number of diseases that	
17	don't or processes that don't leave obvious marks on, to	
18	be visible at postmortem so	
19	<b>A.</b> I fear that that to some extent underlines the	
20	deficiencies in pathology.	
21	Q. Yes.	
22	A. You have a postmortem examination into with	
23	an elderly patient, you can find so much pathology you	
24	could write three or four death certificates.	
25	Q. Yes.	
	85	
1	by the opinions of others.	
1 2	by the opinions of others. That was absolutely crazy.	
2	That was absolutely crazy.	
2 3	That was absolutely crazy. <b>Q.</b> Yes.	
2 3 4	<ul><li>That was absolutely crazy.</li><li>Q. Yes.</li><li>A. The pathologist cannot see an errant</li></ul>	
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	<ul> <li>That was absolutely crazy.</li> <li>Q. Yes.</li> <li>A. The pathologist cannot see an errant</li> <li>electrical activity within the heart that was that</li> <li>was observed in the hospital.</li> <li>Q. Yes.</li> <li>A. You you have to have as much information as</li> <li>possible. 99% of it may be irrelevant but the</li> <li>pathologist has to be engaged fully with all available</li> <li>evidence.</li> <li>Q. If I come on to Child C whose Family</li> <li>I represent. Again, to be very clear, I am not asking</li> <li>you to comment on any judicial decision-making. I just</li> <li>want to understand what information was provided to</li> <li>you</li> <li>A. Yes.</li> <li>Q and in what format. You discuss the</li> <li>conclusions you reached with regard to cause of death at</li> <li>paragraph 52 of your witness statement. Effectively</li> <li>what you say is that it was communicated to you by</li> <li>Dr Kokai that there was a natural cause of death, ie</li> </ul>	

The actual cause that's identified is the 1 Δ. leader in the pack. But whether it actually is the 2 cause of death is another question. With an infant, 3 there's often so little to see that it, it is 4 extraordinarily difficult to find a cause of death. 5 6 Q. But of course, if you have evidence from 7 clinicians or accounts from clinicians, it is usually the clinical history that tells you what the cause of 8 9 death was in those cases? 10 Α. Yes, yes. 11 Q. So in other words, sepsis, which may not leave 12 many marks --13 Α. Yes. -- on the body of a baby, there will be 14 Q. a history of sepsis --15 16 Α. Yes. 17 Q. -- and progression of that disease and likewise, you know, cardiac disorders, again bring about 18 19 obvious symptoms in life in many cases that can be 20 described by doctors in evidence? 21 Α. When I first became a Coroner, it was the 22 practice of some Coroners to give instructions that the 23 pathologist was to be given no information whatsoever on the basis that the pathologist was to act as a totally 24 independent expert and not in any way to be influenced 25 86 1 Q. Lung dysfunction? 2 Δ. Yes. 3 Q. So the Inquiry has heard evidence to suggest 4 that Dr Gibbs, who was the treating paediatrician for 5 Child A, was concerned that the damage to Child C's heart occurred following his collapse; so in other 6 7 words, he had a collapse and then lived for a period --8 Α. Right okay. Q. -- on the edge of life --9 10 Α. Yes. Before passing away and that the damage to his 11 O. heart was caused during that period? 12 13 Α. Right okay. 14 Q. But wasn't the cause of his collapse? 15 Right. Α. Q. His evidence was that actually with regard to 16 his respiratory function and heart function leading up 17 to the collapse, that all seemed to be normal to him? 18 Α. Okay. 19 20 Q. So he was -- he had discussions with Dr Kokai about Dr Kokai's finding and may or may not have 21 22 expressed concerns to Dr Kokai, it would certainly be

- evidence of Mother C that she understood there to beconcerns by Dr Gibbs regarding the cause of death?
- 24 concerns by Dr Gibbs regarding the cause of death?25 A. Right.
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explain findings.

Q.

1 Was any of that debate communicated to you? Q. 2 Α. No. I can't remember having any discussion 3 with Dr Kokai or anyone else at Alder Hey. It was 4 a very comprehensive postmortem report that seemed to 5 produce a very clear line of causation. 6 Q. Yes. 7 Α. The appearance was of a completely natural 8 cause of death. 9 Q. Yes, and of course any Coroner is reliant upon 10 the medical expertise of the pathologist in providing their description of what the cause of death is based 11 upon the postmortem findings, but it is ultimately the 12 role of the Coroner is it not to determine the cause of 13 death? 14 15 Α. Absolutely, yes. 16 In some cases a Coroner may disregard what Q. 17 a pathologist says because there is other evidence in conflict --18 19 Α. Absolutely. Every postmortem report is looked 20 at extremely carefully, particularly with a paediatric 21 postmortem, and yes, if there are any queries or any 22 apparent anomalies, these are taken up and personally 23 I always found Dr Kokai extremely approachable --24 Q. Yes. 25 Α. -- and more than happy to discuss matters and 89 1 Α. Yes. 2 But it would go, in Child C's case, to be Q. 3 important for an Inquest because it isn't a disagreement 4 between two potential natural causes, it is 5 a disagreement between a given natural cause or death 6 being unascertained as a cause of death? 7 Α. Yes, yes. 8 Q. That would be the reason to have an Inquest. 9 So that would have been relevant and important information to provide to the Coroner? 10 Α. Yes. 11 Yes. In relation to Child E, again you have 12 Q. been asked some questions, I hope not to repeat them but 13 14 advice was given to the parents of Child E not to have a postmortem, or in other words that a postmortem 15 wouldn't give any more information? 16 17 Α. Right. 18 Because the doctor concluded that the cause of Q. death was Necrotising Enterocolitis? 19 20 Α. Yes. 21 Q. Again, the evidence for that condition was 22 somewhat fragile, it might be said? 23 Α. Okay. 24 Q. The doctor who gave that advice has since said 25 that actually I shouldn't have given that advice, there

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a difference in opinion between clinicians and pathologist as to cause of death? Α. Yes, yes, I would hope normally though that that would be made clear in a report. Yes. Indeed. And the usual way to determine Q. that dispute, if it can be categorised as a dispute, is to have an Inquest and to hear evidence, isn't it? Yes. Α. Q. So if there is a disagreement as to the cause of death? Yes, if it -- if it is that stark. Α. Q. Yes Α. And I would anticipate or expect you will have seen in the postmortem reports it's invariable the correlation between the antemortem details and the postmortem details, just to tie the two up and I would have expected something there. Q. Indeed recognising as we you said before that the postmortem findings are contingent upon in many cases what happened in life --Α. Yes. Q. -- when you come to that point? 90 wasn't enough evidence for Necrotising Enterocolitis? Right, that is disturbing. Α. Q. Yes. Speaking as a Coroner, would you expect a clinician giving advice to parents about a postmortem to say a postmortem is going to be difficult and traumatic and it will be upsetting for you to have a postmortem, so even if there is a reason for it, we shouldn't have it? What I -- well, that may or may not be the Α. case. What I would expect was that the doctor reporting the death to make it clear that there were considerable doubts as to whether this was the correct --Q. Yes? Α. -- diagnosis. In which case I would order a postmortem and obviously one tries to take into account the views of a family and before any postmortem the family will be consulted. Ultimately, it's for the Coroner to make the decision so it's not a question of this isn't a set of circumstances where one is contemplating in an absolutely stock natural cause death, discussing the possibility of a hospital postmortem This is the Coroner's case and it is the Coroner that will make the decision. Q. So going to two key points. One is that the

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I want to be clear I am not impugning

Dr Kokai's competence, but there is sometimes

1	Coroner i	s a person ultimately who make a decision about			
2	a postmortem?				
3	Α.	Yes.			
4	Q.	Not the doctor or the parents. But secondly,			
5	Coroners	shouldn't be misled by			
6	Α.	Oh, absolutely not. I mean, again the duty of			
7	candour,	it's			
8	Q.	Yes.			
9	Α.	Am I right in recalling that it was Dr Napier			
10	that was	the Assistant Coroner that dealt with I have			
11	got a feel	ing it was.			
12	Q.	It was the sitting Coroner.			
13	А.	On that particular day.			
14	Q.	l don't			
15	Α.	Right. I am almost certain it was.			
16	Q.	Yes.			
17	Α.	And the advantage there would be that whereas			
18	most of n	ny team were not medically qualified, Dr Napier			
19	is and wa	is and a doctor second to none. And would			
20	have und	erstood the nuances if full details were were			
21	given.				
22	<b>Q</b> .	But in Coroner's practice if you receive			
23	a telepho	ne call from a treating clinician who says:			
24	•	Necrotising Enterocolitis, it would be			
25		cision, wouldn't it, to disagree with that			
		93			
1	today.				
2	Α.	Okay.			
2 3	A. Q.	In terms of the meeting of 8 February 2017			
2 3 4	A. Q. A.	In terms of the meeting of 8 February 2017 Yes.			
2 3 4 5	A. Q. A. Q.	In terms of the meeting of 8 February 2017 Yes. you have told the Inquiry that you have no			
2 3 4 5 6	A. Q. A. Q. independ	In terms of the meeting of 8 February 2017 Yes. you have told the Inquiry that you have no ent recollection of that meeting but you accept			
2 3 4 5 6 7	A. Q. A. Q. independ	In terms of the meeting of 8 February 2017 Yes. you have told the Inquiry that you have no ent recollection of that meeting but you accept notes that were made that the meeting took			
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	A. Q. A. Q. independ from the place and	In terms of the meeting of 8 February 2017 Yes. you have told the Inquiry that you have no ent recollection of that meeting but you accept			
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	A. Q. A. Q. independ	In terms of the meeting of 8 February 2017 Yes. you have told the Inquiry that you have no ent recollection of that meeting but you accept notes that were made that the meeting took d that you were there? Yes.			
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	A. Q. A. Q. independ from the place and	In terms of the meeting of 8 February 2017 Yes. you have told the Inquiry that you have no ent recollection of that meeting but you accept notes that were made that the meeting took d that you were there?			
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	A. Q. A. Q. independ from the place and A. Q.	In terms of the meeting of 8 February 2017 Yes. you have told the Inquiry that you have no ent recollection of that meeting but you accept notes that were made that the meeting took d that you were there? Yes.			
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	A. Q. A. Q. independ from the p place and A. Q. discussed	In terms of the meeting of 8 February 2017 Yes. you have told the Inquiry that you have no ent recollection of that meeting but you accept notes that were made that the meeting took d that you were there? Yes. Yes. And my note of one issue that was			
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	A. Q. A. Q. independ from the p place and A. Q. discussed	In terms of the meeting of 8 February 2017 Yes. you have told the Inquiry that you have no ent recollection of that meeting but you accept notes that were made that the meeting took d that you were there? Yes. Yes. Yes. And my note of one issue that was d during the course of that meeting, the note			
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	A. Q. A. Q. independ from the i place and A. Q. discussed made by A. Q.	In terms of the meeting of 8 February 2017 Yes. you have told the Inquiry that you have no ent recollection of that meeting but you accept notes that were made that the meeting took d that you were there? Yes. Yes. Yes. And my note of one issue that was d during the course of that meeting, the note Stephen Cross Yes. Is that you are recorded as having said the			
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	A. Q. A. Q. independ from the p place and A. Q. discussed made by A. Q. Trust has	In terms of the meeting of 8 February 2017 Yes. you have told the Inquiry that you have no ent recollection of that meeting but you accept notes that were made that the meeting took d that you were there? Yes. Yes. And my note of one issue that was d during the course of that meeting, the note Stephen Cross Yes. Is that you are recorded as having said the e done the right thing?			
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	A. Q. A. Q. independ from the f place and A. Q. discussed made by A. Q. Trust has A. Q.	In terms of the meeting of 8 February 2017 Yes. you have told the Inquiry that you have no eent recollection of that meeting but you accept notes that were made that the meeting took d that you were there? Yes. Yes. Yes. And my note of one issue that was d during the course of that meeting, the note Stephen Cross Yes. Is that you are recorded as having said the done the right thing? Yes.			
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	A. Q. A. Q. independ from the p place and A. Q. discussed made by A. Q. Trust has A. Q. Trust has A. Q.	In terms of the meeting of 8 February 2017 Yes. you have told the Inquiry that you have no ent recollection of that meeting but you accept notes that were made that the meeting took d that you were there? Yes. Yes. And my note of one issue that was d during the course of that meeting, the note Stephen Cross Yes. Is that you are recorded as having said the done the right thing? Yes. Now, in his meeting note of 15 February			
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	A. Q. A. Q. independ from the p place and A. Q. discussed made by A. Q. Trust has A. Q. Trust has A. Q.	In terms of the meeting of 8 February 2017 Yes. you have told the Inquiry that you have no ent recollection of that meeting but you accept notes that were made that the meeting took d that you were there? Yes. Yes. And my note of one issue that was d during the course of that meeting, the note Stephen Cross Yes. Is that you are recorded as having said the done the right thing? Yes. Now, in his meeting note of 15 February so the following week, there is another note			
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	A. Q. A. Q. independ from the p place and A. Q. discussed made by A. Q. Trust has A. Q. Trust has A. Q.	In terms of the meeting of 8 February 2017 Yes. you have told the Inquiry that you have no ent recollection of that meeting but you accept notes that were made that the meeting took d that you were there? Yes. Yes. And my note of one issue that was d during the course of that meeting, the note Stephen Cross Yes. Is that you are recorded as having said the o done the right thing? Yes. Now, in his meeting note of 15 February so the following week, there is another note him that echoes that note?			
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	A. Q. A. Q. independ from the fiplace and from the fiplace and A. Q. discussed made by A. Q. Trust has A. Q. meeting, made by A. Q.	In terms of the meeting of 8 February 2017 Yes. you have told the Inquiry that you have no eent recollection of that meeting but you accept notes that were made that the meeting took d that you were there? Yes. Yes. And my note of one issue that was d during the course of that meeting, the note Stephen Cross Yes. Is that you are recorded as having said the done the right thing? Yes. Now, in his meeting note of 15 February so the following week, there is another note him that echoes that note? Okay.			
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	A. Q. A. Q. independ from the p place and A. Q. discussed made by A. Q. Trust has A. Q. Trust has A. Q. Trust by A. Q. Trust by A. Q. Trust has A. Q. Trust has A. C. Trust has A. C. C. Trust has A. C. C. Trust has A. C. Trust has A. C. C. Trust has A. C. C. C. C. C. C. C. C. C. C. C. C. C.	In terms of the meeting of 8 February 2017 Yes. you have told the Inquiry that you have no ent recollection of that meeting but you accept notes that were made that the meeting took t that you were there? Yes. Yes. And my note of one issue that was d during the course of that meeting, the note Stephen Cross Yes. Is that you are recorded as having said the done the right thing? Yes. Now, in his meeting note of 15 February so the following week, there is another note him that echoes that note? Okay. It says "absolutely right action by the Trust" see comments made by you about the Trust			
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	A. Q. A. Q. independ from the p place and A. Q. discussed made by A. Q. Trust has A. Q. Trust has A. Q. Trust by A. Q. Trust by A. Q. Trust has A. Q. Trust has A. C. Trust has A. C. C. Trust has A. C. C. Trust has A. C. Trust has A. C. C. Trust has A. C. C. C. C. C. C. C. C. C. C. C. C. C.	In terms of the meeting of 8 February 2017 Yes. you have told the Inquiry that you have no ent recollection of that meeting but you accept notes that were made that the meeting took d that you were there? Yes. Yes. And my note of one issue that was d during the course of that meeting, the note Stephen Cross Yes. Is that you are recorded as having said the o done the right thing? Yes. Now, in his meeting note of 15 February so the following week, there is another note him that echoes that note? Okay. It says "absolutely right action by the Trust" is comments made by you about the Trust ioning the RCPCH report and then later			

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quir	y	6 December 202
1	А.	Oh absolutely, yes.
2	Q.	conversation?
3	Α.	Oh, absolutely, yes, and I have to say that
4	I think wit	hout exception in the case of the babies
5	here, it w	as always a Consultant that made the report.
6	Q.	Yes.
7	Α.	Which which is good practice. In the
8	Coroners	office we often are beset with difficulty
9	because	the it's the poor junior doctor that doesn't
10	know a le	ft leg from a right leg who's asked to report
11	a death a	nd trying to get something comprehensive before
12	one gives	up and says: I must speak to the Registrar
13	Sot	to have a Consultant report a death, unusual,
14	but one w	ould expect a very much higher standard.
15		BAKER: Yes. Thank you, my Lady, I have no more
16	questions	).
17	•	Y JUSTICE THIRLWALL: Thank you, Mr Baker.
18	Ms Black	
19		Questions by MS BLACKWELL
20	MS	BLACKWELL: Mr Rheinberg, my name is Kate
21		and I ask guestions on behalf of the former
22	Executive	es of the Trust.
23	Α.	Yes, thank you.
24	Q.	I don't have very many questions and they are
25	based are	ound the evidence that you have already given 94
1	Q.	Thank you. During the course of that meeting,
2	the secor	nd meeting on 15 February
3	Α.	Yes.
4	Q.	we know that you were provided with three
5	documen	ts?
6	Α.	Yes.
7	Q.	The letter from the Consultants.
8	Α.	Yes.
9	Q.	Dr Hawdon's report.
10	Α.	Yes.
11	Q.	And the third document, which is headed
12	"Observa	tions Additional to the RCPCH Review"
13	Α.	Yes.
14	Q.	" of Neonatal Services."
15	Tha	t includes the text that we have referred to
16	Α.	Yes.
17	Q.	as the green text?
18	Α.	Yes.
19	Q.	You have said this morning, Mr Rheinberg, that
20	you can't	remember if that third document was discussed

Well, we have looked at your notes --

Yes. I think if it was, it would have been in

during the course of the meeting.

Α.

Q.

Α.

Yes.

23 my note.

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1	<b>Q.</b> and they are typed notes, aren't they?	1	<b>Q.</b> Should you have looked at it?
2	A. Yes.	2	A. Yes, obviously.
3	<b>Q.</b> Do we take it from that that they weren't	3	<b>Q.</b> You have told the Inquiry this morning that
4	being made contemporaneously during the course of the	4	the police, the hospital, clinicians, everybody, bear
5	meeting but written up afterwards or typed up	5	a responsibility for bringing any relevant information
6	afterwards?	6	to your attention?
7	<b>A.</b> No. My writing is absolutely appalling.	7	A. Yes.
8	I take a contemporaneous note and then immediately	8	<b>Q.</b> And only then does the system become fully
9	afterwards, I type it up.	9	effective?
10	So, no. I do they are as near as can be	10	A. Yes.
11	properly described as a contemporaneous note.	10	<b>Q.</b> We know that you were not provided with the
12	<b>Q.</b> If you didn't look through that third document	12	full RCPCH report in January of 2017 and you were asked
13	during the course of that meeting, would you have looked	12	by Ms Langdale this morning what difference, if any, it
14	at it afterwards, perhaps in the course of typing up	13	would have made if you had been provided with the full
	your notes?		report?
15 16	-	15 16	A. Yes.
	<ul> <li>A. I can't remember having done so.</li> <li>Q. All right. Would it be unusual for you not to</li> </ul>		
17		17	Q. Including the green text?
18	have read the full bundle of documents which you had	18	A. Yes.
19	been provided with?	19	<b>Q.</b> Your answer to that was that: the redacted
20	A. I would hope so, but this particular time was	20	paragraphs clearly raised a matter that needed
21	horrendously hectic. I was seeking to hold as many	21	investigating.
22	Inquests as I could that on outstanding cases, handing	22	A. Yes.
23	over everything, preparing for retirement, going and	23	<b>Q.</b> Your response would have been to report the
24	doing the rounds of farewells, et cetera. So it, it was	24	matter to the police?
25	a busy time. I can't say one way or another.	25	A. Yes.
	97		98
1	<b>Q.</b> You also went on in the latest session to tell	1	reported to you the deaths of Child O and Child P. You
1 2		1 2	reported to you the deaths of Child O and Child P. You told us that this morning?
_	the Inquiry that you were regarded as a bit of a pain		reported to you the deaths of Child O and Child P. You told us that this morning? <b>A.</b> Yes.
2 3	the Inquiry that you were regarded as a bit of a pain because you would go to the police with any suggestion	2	told us that this morning? A. Yes.
2 3 4	the Inquiry that you were regarded as a bit of a pain because you would go to the police with any suggestion of criminality?	2 3 4	<ul><li>told us that this morning?</li><li>A. Yes.</li><li>Q. Was that the first such conversation that you</li></ul>
2 3 4 5	the Inquiry that you were regarded as a bit of a pain because you would go to the police with any suggestion of criminality? A. Yes.	2 3 4 5	<ul> <li>told us that this morning?</li> <li>A. Yes.</li> <li>Q. Was that the first such conversation that you had with Ms Hurst or any of your Coroner's officers?</li> </ul>
2 3 4	<ul> <li>the Inquiry that you were regarded as a bit of a pain</li> <li>because you would go to the police with any suggestion</li> <li>of criminality?</li> <li>A. Yes.</li> <li>Q. But you didn't go to the police when you were</li> </ul>	2 3 4	<ul> <li>told us that this morning?</li> <li>A. Yes.</li> <li>Q. Was that the first such conversation that you had with Ms Hurst or any of your Coroner's officers?</li> <li>A. No, no, it having three deaths quite close</li> </ul>
2 3 4 5 6 7	<ul> <li>the Inquiry that you were regarded as a bit of a pain because you would go to the police with any suggestion of criminality?</li> <li>A. Yes.</li> <li>Q. But you didn't go to the police when you were provided with that information during the course of the</li> </ul>	2 3 4 5 6 7	<ul> <li>told us that this morning?</li> <li>A. Yes.</li> <li>Q. Was that the first such conversation that you had with Ms Hurst or any of your Coroner's officers?</li> <li>A. No, no, it having three deaths quite close together in</li> </ul>
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As you have explained to the Inquiry, scrutiny 1 Q. 2 and care is much greater with a forensic pathologist 3 than with -- and during a forensic postmortem? 4 Right, okay. I may -- that's why I introduced Α. 5 the -- my mention of general postmortems. Q. 6 Yes. 7 Α. A paediatric postmortem is absolutely 8 meticulous; not in any way deficient or unsatisfactory 9 when placed against a forensic postmortem. It's just 10 a different focus. So the paediatric pathologist will look with 11 expertise with regard to paediatric mortality. The 12 forensic pathologist will look for any evidence, signs 13 of criminality and will involve the police to a vastly 14 greater extent. 15 16 The postmortem typically will still be carried out 17 by the paediatric pathologist with the forensic pathologist looking on. Typically it will be the 18 19 paediatric pathologist who takes the lead in 20 histopathological areas --21 Q. Yes 22 Α. -- and in relation to all the other tests. 23 But, as I said, the focus of the forensic pathologist will be on the possibility of criminality. 24 25 And what that adds to the investigation is partly the 101 1 to you by the clinicians? 2 Α. Yes Yes, and one of the additional benefits of 3 Q. 4 a forensic postmortem might be that samples would be 5 retained. There might be a toxicological examination ordered and those additional aspects that wouldn't 6 7 necessarily --8 Α. No, those are always standard with, with 9 any --Q. With any postmortem? 10 Within Alder Hey. Α. 11 12 Q. Right. 13 Α. I can't say for the rest of the country. 14 MS BLACKWELL: Yes. Thank you very much. That is 15 all I ask, my Lady. 16 LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: Thank you very much, 17 Ms Blackwell. Mr Rheinberg, we are going to take a short break 18 but I hope if we just take 15 minutes, then we can 19 20 conclude. I have one or two questions for you but I want the shorthand writer to have a break and I want 21 22 to check some references, so we will come back again at 23 quarter past 1. 24 (1.01 pm) (A short break) 25 103

forensic knowledge and what to look for --1 2 Q. Yes. 3 Α. -- but, secondly, the close communication with 4 the police and the extra information obtained. So what you are describing in a forensic 5 Q. 6 postmortem of a neonate or a child --7 Α. Yes Q. -- would be the presence of the neonatal 8 pathologist? 9 10 Α. Yes 11 Q. The forensic pathologist and the police? 12 Α. Yes, exactly. It's a collaborative process. 13 Yes. Thank you. In terms of the deaths that Q. were reported to you during the period relevant for this 14 customer, there was only one. I am so sorry -- yes, 15 16 there was only one Inquest held and that was in relation 17 to Child A because there were three awaiting --18 Α. Yes. 19 Q. Child D. Child O and Child P? 20 Α. Yes. 21 Q. But in fact those were adjourned once the 22 police investigation was launched? 23 Α. Yes, so I understand, yes. 24 Yes. As a Coroner, the decision for you to Q. 25 order a postmortem is driven by the information provided 102 1 (1.15 pm) 2 Questions by LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: Now, Mr Rheinberg, 3 4 I wanted just to ask you one or two questions about one 5 or two of the documents. 6 Α. Certainly. LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: You will recall earlier in 7 8 your evidence you were asked about the Inquest of Baby A. 9 10 Α. Yes. 11 LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: And that in the early days, when you were first involved, this is well before 12 the Inquest took place, documents were sent to you and 13 14 then on -- and some of them on to the parents of Baby A. The first was the short report with Dr Brearey's 15 signature --16 17 Α. Yes. 18 LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: -- on the bottom, do you 19 remember. 20 Α. Yes. 21 LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: The other document that 22 you received, but it isn't clear to me that that was 23 sent on was the Thematic Review. We have seen --24 Α. Right.

25 LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: -- various versions of the 104

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Thematic Review but we know that you had one and we have 1 2 looked at it earlier. Would you like to have a look at it just to --3 Α. 4 No, I can remember. I cannot recall whether 5 or not that was sent to the Family. 6 LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: Certainly the document 7 that we have looked at sending the other letter --8 Α. Yes. LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: -- doesn't include that 9 10 report. Can you think of any reason why that report wasn't sent? 11 Α. No. I -- I cannot recall the fact that it --12 that anything was sent out. But so I am relying 13 entirely on the -- the documentation that's been 14 produced to me. 15 16 LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: Would there be a reason 17 not to send it out --18 A. Absolutely not. 19 LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: -- now that you have had 20 a chance to see it? No. We had a rule that everything would be 21 Α. 22 sent out to a family if it was very sensitive 23 information, such as a postmortem report, that might well be distressing, the instruction was that the report 24 25 should be placed in a separate sealed envelope, clearly 105 1 Α. It is a possibility. But it's absolute 2 speculation. LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: But would you expect to 3 4 have known what had been sent to the parents at the 5 time, would that be on the file? 6 Yes, yes, I suppose so. The instruction would Α. 7 come from me and so I would give an instruction as to 8 what was -- what was included. I had very good staff. 9 They didn't often make mistakes. LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: No and we have got the 10 letter that was sent. 11 12 Α. Yes, yes. LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: Anyway. You presumably 13 then thought nothing more about it --14 15 Α. No. LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: -- at the Inquest. 16 17 Does it follow from that that the Thematic Review wasn't in front of you at the Inquest? 18 Almost certainly it wasn't. But again I can, 19 Α. 20 I can recall in fairly shady terms the Inquest but as to what was before me, I -- I really can't say. 21 22 LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: And we have got the --23 that you have been taken through. 24 Α. I think the Inquest took place in 25 a Magistrates Court in Chester, again --

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1	marked with what it was, with the explanation given to
2	the family that if they would prefer not to look at the
3	document themselves, then they could send it or take it
4	to their doctor or someone else to look at it on their
5	behalf.
6	So there would never be a reason for withholding
7	information but if it was sensitive it would be dealt
8	with in that sort of way.
9	LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: But there would be a paper
10	trail for that, wouldn't there, if it was dealt with
11	like that.
12	A. Yes, I would hope so.
13	LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: Yes, we would expect that
14	to have happened.
15	<b>A.</b> What was a little bit peculiar in the office
16	at that time was that we were operating on two different
17	computer systems, neither of which talked to the other
18	in typical bureaucratic way.
19	So my office was working on one computer system,
20	the officers were working on another.
21	LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: So does it follow from
22	that that things got lost from time to time?
23	<b>A.</b> It was a possibility, yes.
24	<b>LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL:</b> Do you think that might be
25	a possibility here?
20	106
1	LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: I don't think we need
2	I don't think anything turns on where
3	A. I am just trying to reassure myself
4	LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: it took place.
5	A I am recollecting everything correctly.
6	LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: Thinking of the right one.
7	Yes.
8	Thank you.
9	You were asked some questions just now about the
10	meeting of 8 February, where I think you have
11	A. Yes.
12	
12	LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: got at least a legible or nearly legible copy of what was said?
13 14	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
14	A. Yes, yes.
	LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: It was put to you and you
16	agreed that Mr Cross records you as saying that the
17	Trust had done the right thing.
18	Can you remember anything about that?
19 00	A. Right, I sadly, I cannot remember the
20	meeting at all. I certainly saw the note, the writing
21	is very much better than my own. I had no reason to
22	believe that Mr Cross wasn't accurately recording what
23	was said.
24	LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: Recording.

- 25 **A.** It is just that I can't remember.
  - A. It is just that I can't remember. 108

LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: No, all right. So I won't 1 ask you what you meant by that. Then a few days after 2 3 that, you had the meeting --4 Δ Yes 5 LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: -- on 15 February. Now we 6 are into 2017 by this stage. 7 Α. Yes, yes. 8 LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: At that point, you have 9 got a very detailed note. 10 A. Yes. LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: You have explained how you 11 kept your notes. I just wanted to refresh my memory 12 because this is something that I may need to resolve in 13 due course and this is the evidence from Mr Harvey --14 15 Α. Yes. 16 LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: -- who was being asked 17 about the --18 Α. Yes. 19 LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: About the meeting itself. 20 He was told that, it was put to him that: 21 "There's nothing that said that puts centre front, 22 does it, that there are concerns and concerns of a nurse 23 deliberately harming a baby?" 24 I should say that question was put on the basis of 25 what your note said? 109 1 meeting was on the request that there should be 2 a general inquiry/investigation carried out by the 3 Coroners service. 4 That seemed to be the -- the theme throughout the 5 meeting with me explaining that I couldn't, couldn't 6 meet their requirements. So yes, I knew that the, at 7 that stage, that the Consultants had concerns. LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: What was the nature of 8 9 their concerns? 10 Α. I think just in general that some -- something wasn't going right or that they just wanted more 11 information. I think -- I saw Alan Moore's statement, 12 where he had said he wondered whether he had asked 13 14 rather pointedly: why do you want this investigation? Is it a matter of reputational concern or whatever? By 15 that I suppose he meant: was it a question of trying to 16 17 deflect blame and find some other factor that could 18 exonerate --19 LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: Well, yes, he gave us his 20 evidence and explained that wasn't what he meant but 21 anyway --22 Α. But I can't remember that being said but it 23 does rather fit in with my recollection, that just about 24 everything that was discussed at that meeting related to the request that the Coroner's office should carry out 25 111

1 Right, yes. Α. 2 LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: The response was: 3 "I recall that either Mr Cross or I in passing the paediatricians' letter across to Mr Rheinberg explained 4 the background to that letter and the paediatricians' 5 6 concerns." 7 He went on to say: 8 "I am also aware that there is documentation within 9 the Inquiry that confirms that part of the bundle that 10 Mr Rheinberg received was actually the full RCPCH report 11 which included reference to the paediatricians' 12 concerns." 13 So let's just unpick that a little bit. The last 14 bit I think what's in the bundle in fact are those passages of the bundle of the RCPCH report that had been 15 16 taken out and then reformatted and put into the bundle 17 that you have; the redacted parts as we have been referring to them? 18 19 Α. Yes. 20 LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: So we know that that document is in the bundle. What's your view about 21 22 what's said there, that they explained the background to 23 the letter and the paediatricians' concerns? Did they 24 explain the paediatricians' concerns? 25 Α. My recollection is that the focus of the 110 1 some form of investigation. LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: Should I infer from that 2 that there was no reference to the document that's 3 4 headed additional observations? 5 No, no, I don't remember any actual reference Α. 6 to the documents. I -- I think I was handed a bundle, 7 I seem to remember quite a thick bundle, but the -- the 8 meeting then followed on to discuss that particular 9 theme. 10 LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: Yes, thank you. 11 Those are all my questions, anybody want to ask anything else? No. Thank you very much indeed, 12 13 Mr Rheinberg, you are free to go. 14 Yes, thank you, my Lady. Α. 15 LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: You are free to go. Yes, absolutely, you are free to go? 16 17 Α. Okay, thank you very much. 18 LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: So we will adjourn now and 19 start again on. 20 MS LANGDALE: Tuesday at 10 am. 21 LADY JUSTICE THIRLWALL: -- Tuesday 10 o'clock. 22 Thank you all very much. 23 (1.28 pm) 24 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am

25 on Tuesday, 10 December 2024)

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50/16 53/3 57/10 57/24 60/5 60/15 60/17 60/19 63/14 63/19 70/22 73/2 74/10 77/16 80/17 81/12 82/2 82/11 82/23 83/1 83/22 84/21 87/10 88/18 97/17 99/12 100/20 101/22 103/15 108/20	64/25 71/1 76/25 81/16 98/19 answered [1] 4/24 answering [2] 74/10 75/21 answers [2] 75/16 76/4 antemortem [1]	appointed [3] 1/18 1/20 29/13 appointment [2] 52/19 81/6 apportion [1] 10/19 approach [2] 37/9 60/17 approachable [1]	49/15 58/12 60/9 67/12 67/14 69/2 72/8 72/19 72/20 75/9 75/18 80/3 94/21 103/15 104/4 109/2 112/11 <b>asked [20]</b> 24/21 35/18 35/24 38/21 39/2 39/7 41/11 53/14	away [2] 4/3 88/11 B babies [12] 7/16 18/17 32/21 33/8 35/10 43/19 49/22 50/3 54/17 59/17 65/23 94/4 babies' [1] 44/25 baby [16] 11/12 14/3
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50/16 53/3 57/10 57/24 60/5 60/15 60/17 60/19 63/14 63/19 70/22 73/2 74/10 77/16 80/17 81/12 82/2 82/11 82/23 83/1 83/22 84/21 87/10 88/18 97/17 99/12 100/20 101/22 103/15 108/20 109/1 112/11 112/22 allegation [1] 40/16 allegations [1] 50/20 allege [1] 77/13 alleged [1] 22/20 almost [5] 62/11 77/15 84/13 93/15	64/25 71/1 76/25 81/16 98/19 answered [1] 4/24 answering [2] 74/10 75/21 answers [2] 75/16 76/4 antemortem [1] 90/18 anticipate [2] 37/12 90/16 anticipated [1] 36/4 anticipation [1] 15/21 anxious [1] 75/12 any [77] 4/8 11/11 13/25 14/5 16/23 16/24 17/11 20/9 21/8 22/6 24/5 33/18 34/7	appointed [3] 1/18 1/20 29/13 appointment [2] 52/19 81/6 apportion [1] 10/19 approach [2] 37/9 60/17 approachable [1] 89/23 approaching [1] 68/11 appropriate [12] 3/17 3/18 6/6 11/21 12/3 12/8 27/4 29/21 37/9 65/15 78/16 84/6 April [3] 1/12 20/19 20/22 April 2016 [2] 20/19 20/22	49/15 58/12 60/9 67/12 67/14 69/2 72/8 72/19 72/20 75/9 75/18 80/3 94/21 103/15 104/4 109/2 112/11 <b>asked [20]</b> 24/21 35/18 35/24 38/21 39/2 39/7 41/11 53/14 64/9 73/24 74/18 76/18 85/10 91/13 94/10 98/12 104/8 108/9 109/16 111/13 <b>asking [10]</b> 3/5 14/5 30/17 54/24 74/15 76/9 77/24 80/6 81/17 87/13 <b>aspects [1]</b> 103/6 <b>assigned [1]</b> 40/9	away [2] 4/3 88/11 B babies [12] 7/16 18/17 32/21 33/8 35/10 43/19 49/22 50/3 54/17 59/17 65/23 94/4 babies' [1] 44/25 baby [16] 11/12 14/3 15/13 16/21 18/19 19/9 29/15 44/5 48/25 53/21 53/23 69/13 86/14 104/9 104/14 109/23 Baby A [6] 14/3 15/13 18/19 19/9 104/9 104/14 Baby A's [1] 16/21 Baby D [1] 44/5
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