

Summary of information for The Sunday Times

This was a report that we asked for and invited from The Royal College. At the time of requesting the review and in the interest of transparency we were open with our board, our governors, our staff, patients and a wide range of stakeholders including the local media.

We received the final report in December 2016 and it is due to be published next week. We have carried out the additional independent reviews requested as part of this process.

Medical Director at The Countess of Chester Ian Harvey said: "We have done all we can to keep parents informed and our clinical teams will be contacting them again ahead of the review being published to make sure a copy is available for them. Thirteen detailed independent case note and pathology reviews will also be shared with the families on an individual basis. Our work on this has only completed within the last two weeks and now we have the full and accurate information to share with parents. We are sorry for any distress or upset this review may have caused. Those families affected have been through so much already."

The Trust acknowledges that, of the 13, there remain two cases of babies that have died where the cause is unascertained. It is recognised that in neonatal deaths you sometimes cannot find a cause. We are supporting the coroner with his enquiries in relation to this.

We have no plans to change the current admission arrangements on the unit until we are certain we have acted on all the recommendations in the review.

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