

Thirlwall Inquiry

THE THIRLWALL INQUIRY

RULE 9 QUESTIONNAIRE FOR NURSES

Name: Pauline Fong

Role as per Countess of Chester 2015-2016 Staff List: Bank Registered Nurse

Enclosed documents: No additional documents provided

Questionnaire

Nursing career and employment at the Countess of Chester Hospital (the "hospital")

1. Please provide a short summary of your nursing career. This summary should include at least the following information:
 - a. when you qualified as a nurse, including the educational institute or awarding body;
 - b. your nursing qualifications, including your nursing band from 2015 to the present;
 - c. details of your previous and current employment.

a. Qualified in 1980. Trained at the Royal Liverpool Teaching Hospital as a registered nurse. Then qualified in 1981 as a registered midwife.

b. RN and RM. Senior neonatal midwife, Band 6 at NNU Arrowe Park Hospital.

c. Always employed at Arrowe Park Hospital WUTH.

2. What were your duties and responsibilities (including any management responsibilities) as a nurse on the neonatal unit (the "NNU") at the hospital in 2015 and 2016?

Employed by PULSE Agency for a few nights shifts at COC.

The culture and atmosphere on the NNU at the hospital in 2015-2016

3. How would you describe the quality of the management, supervision and/or support of nurses on the NNU between June 2015 and June 2016?

Not had any dealings with management as I was only employed at night and just a few shifts.

4. How would you describe the relationships between: (i) clinicians and managers; (ii) nurses, midwives and managers; and (iii) between medical professionals (doctors, nurses, midwives and others) at the hospital between June 2015 and June 2016?

Not known

Concerns or suspicions

5. Were you given any training on how to report concerns about fellow members of staff? When? If so, how were any concerns to be reported?

I was aware of the procedure from my training with my own Trust.

6. Did you have any concerns or suspicions about the conduct of Lucy Letby ("Letby") while you worked on the NNU? If yes, what were your concerns or suspicions and did you raise them with anyone, either formally or informally?

No, only worked a few shifts with her.

7. Were you aware of any suspicions or concerns of others about the conduct of Letby and, if so, when and how did you become aware of those concerns?

Not whilst I was working at COC.

8. What discussion or debrief was there (formal or otherwise) with or between nurses, or between nurses and doctors, after the death of a baby?

No deaths occurred during my shifts at COC

9. Were you ever aware or worried about the increase in the number of deaths on the NNU? If so, when was this and what did you think?

I was concerned about the number of babies collapsing and being transferred to my unit at Arrowe Park Hospital. I believed it was due to poor care at COC.

Reflections

10. Do you think if the babies had been monitored by CCTV the crimes of Letby could have been prevented?

Yes, 100%.

11. What recommendations do you think this Inquiry should make to keep babies in NNUs safe from any criminal actions of staff?

Requirement for CCTV. Adequate staff training and safe 'whistle blowing'.

Request for documents

12. Do you have any documents or other information which are potentially relevant to the Inquiry's Terms of Reference? For example, any documents relating to concerns that were raised about Letby or the safety of the babies on the NNU in 2015 and 2016. If so, please itemise them and provide copies with your signed statement.

No.

Signed:

Personal Data

Full Name: Pauline Fong

Dated:

29.3.24.