

# Thirlwall Inquiry

## THE THIRLWALL INQUIRY

### RULE 9 QUESTIONNAIRE FOR NURSES

**Name:** Janet Cox

**Role as per Countess of Chester 2015-2016 Staff List:** Nursery Nurse

**Enclosed documents:** Witness statement dated 11 May 2018 (INQ0000343)

Witness statement dated 29 May 2018 (INQ0000527)

#### 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.

I qualified as a Nursery Nurse (NNEB) in 1986 from Chester College. I commenced working on NNU at COCH in September 1986. I was a Band 4. Retired in September 2022.

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?

My duties and responsibilities would have been as outlined in the relevant job description for that time, primarily looking after special care babies.

#### **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?

I cannot remember.

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?

I do not have a clear memory and do not want to comment as my view of the Trust and various so called medical ‘professionals’ is prejudiced by the horrendous way they treated Lucy (Miss Letby).

#### **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 cannot remember being given any specific training. When i did have concerns i would have gone to the unit manager.

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?

I had no concerns or suspicions about Lucy's conduct. She was an exemplary nurse who is completely innocent of all the alleged crimes.

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?

I cannot remember the exact dates but do remember gradually becoming aware that certain consultants, **I&S** appeared to be trying to make Lucy a scapegoat for the increased number of deaths/collapsed.

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?

As a Nursery Nurse i would not have been involved in debriefs even if they were held.

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?

Obviously any death is a worry but i did not think at the time, nor do i think now, that there was anything sinister about the increase in the number of deaths/collapses. I do not see how you can set a figure on how many deaths are acceptable in one particular time frame. The very reason these babies required admission to a NNU was because they had a high chance of dying or collapsing.

### Reflections

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

Lucy did not commit any crimes. If there had been CCTV the footage would have proved her innocence.

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

I do not have any recommendations.

### 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

**Personal Data**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Full Name: Janet Louise Cox

Dated: 9/4/2024 \_\_\_\_\_