

# Thirlwall Inquiry

## THE THIRLWALL INQUIRY

### RULE 9 QUESTIONNAIRE FOR NURSES

**Name:** Faith Chidongo

**Role as per Countess of Chester 2015-2016 Staff List:** Bank Registered Nurse (I was employed as a Band 4 Nursery Nurse in September 2015-2016)

**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.

I qualified as a Childrens Nurse in September 2015 at Chester University following a completion of the Degree of Bachelor of Nursing with Honours (Children's). However, I was employed by the Countess of Chester Hospital as a Band 4 Bank Nursery Nurse due to studying for my Postgrad in Specialist Public Health Nurse -Health Visiting in September 2015-2016. I worked nightshifts as and when I was available. I'm currently employed as a Health Visitor in Nottingham (Band 6) since 2017.

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?

I worked night shifts and from what I remember my duties as a Band 4 were the following:

- Observations on babies including temperature, heart rate and respirations
- Feeding
- Nappy changing
- Record keeping
- Parental interactions

I did not have any management responsibilities.

#### **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 did not have much interactions with management as I only worked a couple of nightshifts. As a Band 4 I worked under the supervision of staff nurses and at the time I did not have any issues with the supervision given by the nurses.

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 am unable to comment on the relationships mentioned above as I only worked a couple of nightshifts and did not have much interactions with the above.

### 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 recall whether I was given training on how to report concerns about fellow members of staff. However, if I had to report any concerns, I would have reported to the 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?

No

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?

No

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?

I was not aware of any discussions or debriefs due to having no involvement in the care of babies when they passed away. I cannot recall any baby deaths during the nightshifts I did on the NNU.

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 not aware of the increase in the number of deaths on the NNU.

### Reflections

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

Yes

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

Having CCTV in the rooms where babies are is beneficial and allows for remote monitoring. It is also a good deterrent.

### 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: \_\_\_\_Faith Chidongo\_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_29/05/2024\_\_\_\_\_