Kind regards



Debbie Dodd

Personal Assistant to
Mr Ian Harvey, Medical Director & Deputy CEO
Mrs Debbie O'Neill, Chief Finance Officer
Tel. 0 I&S Ext I&S
Countess of Chester Hospital NHS FT
debbie.dodd1 I&S

Dear Dr McPartland

Further to our conversation on 6th December I am emailing having had the approval of the Coroner, Mr Rheinberg, to request a review of four cases.

As discussed, the background is that we have had an RCPCH invited review after our clinicians had noticed an increase in the number of neonatal deaths. One of the recommendations of this review was that an independent secondary review of the individual cases (13 deaths and 4 near misses) was required and this was duly carried out by Dr Jane Hawdon. Dr Hawdon has advised "local forensic review", to include pathology/histopathology, of four cases:

Advised review of cause of death given that the baby
was stable in air in the days preceding collapse.
Cause of death listed as prematurity but at 33
weeks only mildly pre-term and not expected to collapse and die and that, subject to expert histopathology review, this remained an unexplained collapse and death.
No identified cause of collapse or death and as with
sibling above cause of death listed as prematurity but at 33 weeks only mildly pre-term and not expected to collapse and die and that, subject to expert histopathology review, this remained an unexplained collapse and death.
Cause of death unascertained.