

# Thirlwall Inquiry

## THE THIRLWALL INQUIRY

### RULE 9 QUESTIONNAIRE FOR NURSES

**Name:** Abigail Rebecca Lever

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

**Enclosed documents:** Witness statement dated 27 October 2017 (INQ0001412)

#### 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  
Qualified as a nurse in 2012- Glyndwr university Wrexham
  - b. your nursing qualifications, including your nursing band from 2015 to the present;  
Adult nursing degree- always remained as band 5
  - c. details of your previous and current employment.

Straight from university I worked at Southampton hospital for a year as an adult nurse on a male brain surgical unit. I moved over to their neonatal unit and underwent their specialist neonatal nursing course during my time there. I left in April 2015 and acquired a job at Chester on the neonatal unit and worked there until around April 2020 when covid hit. I came up a permanent to go on the bank however as covid came, I asked for my job back and was refused as no space so I went to work on kids ward and worked there up until March 2022 and have since focused on other areas in life.

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?

Band 5- neonatal nurse- looking after premature babies- assisting the doctors with their duties such as chest drain insertion-cannulations. Bottle fed. Looked after vented and Cpap babies. All round duties of a neonatal nurse

#### **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?  
It just seemed a busy time. I felt we were all supported really well and it has always felt like a really good family team.

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? Its always been a really good working relationship between doctors and nurses.

### Concerns or suspicions

4. 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?
5. 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?

none

6. 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 concerns

7. 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 cant remember

8. 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 did think it was a little odd but just put it down to a stroke of bad luck, I came from a level 3 unit and it was understandable to have 3 babies pass in week- usually then it would be a few months but it was understandable due to the nature of the babies admitted.

### Reflections

9. Do you think if the babies had been monitored by CCTV the crimes of Letby could have been prevented? Yes- I do remember this being mentioned about CCTV but unsure why it was never installed

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

I think there should be one person in the room at all times- just going back to my Southampton days- even in special care with the babies that are getting ready to go home there would always be someone in the room just incase something happened with one of the babies.

### Request for documents

11. 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 I don't.

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

**Personal Data**

Full Name: Abby Lever

Dated: 6/25/2024