

Witness Name:  
**Claire Elizabeth Raggett**  
Statement No.: 2  
Exhibits: 0  
Dated:  
12<sup>th</sup> November 2024

## THIRLWALL INQUIRY

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### WITNESS STATEMENT OF CLAIRE ELIZABETH RAGGETT

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I, Claire Elizabeth Raggett, will say as follows: -

#### **Personal Details**

- 1) My name is Claire Elizabeth Raggett. I have been asked by the Thirlwall Inquiry to provide a supplementary witness statement providing information in response to questions asked in a Rule 9 letter dated 5<sup>th</sup> November 2024.
- 2) I provide this supplementary statement based on what I believe my knowledge would have been at the time and not based on any knowledge I might have gained during the investigation and inquiry processes.
- 3) I have been asked to set out my involvement in the inquest into the death of Child A.
- 4) I have no independent memory of why an inquest was taking place. My understanding at the time would have been that the Coroner had directed that an inquest into the death of Child A would be undertaken. I would not have been aware at that stage if Child A was one of the babies harmed by Letby. I do not recall Stephen Cross advising me of any specific information in relation to Child A's inquest.
- 5) My role during that time did not involve any specific duties relating to the legal team. The usual process was that the Head of Legal Services would advise Stephen Cross of any inquests directed by the Coroner.
- 6) I have no recollection or emails/notes in relation to the inquest of Child A and am reliant on the documents available.
- 7) I have no recollection or awareness of why and when Louis Browne was instructed. Liaison with external lawyers was not within the remit of my role. However, I have reviewed Stephen Cross' notebooks which have been exhibited to the Inquiry. From my review of "SPC notebook 10", it is recorded that:

- a) Stephen Cross met with Joshua Swash on 30.08.2016 at 11.15am where Stephen notes that in relation to Child A's Inquest, he had made a telephone call to Tom Handley at Exchange Chambers regarding "*Louis or Simon Medland*".
  - b) It is then noted that Sarah from Exchange Chambers stated that Louis is preferred for 10.10.2016.
  - c) It is recorded that Stephen Cross then met Joshua Swash again on 01.09.2016 where he noted making a telephone call to Sarah at Exchange Chambers regarding Child A's inquest.
  - d) Stephen Cross then met Helen Andrews from the legal team on 05.09.2016. Stephen Cross made a note recording Louis Browne's name next to Baby A's Inquest.
  - e) Stephen Cross then noted on page 53 at the exec meeting on 08.09.2016 at 11am that "Inquest Child A" then underneath that "*disclosure*".
- 8) I have no recollection/notes of attending any meetings in relation to Child A's inquest.
  - 9) I have no recollection/notes of attending any discussions with Stephen Cross, Joshua Swash, Ian Harvey, or Louis Browne regarding Child A's Inquest.
  - 10) I have no awareness/notes of any discussions regarding whether Louis Browne was made aware of the concerns in relation to Letby in relation to Child A's inquest
  - 11) I have no recollection/notes of anyone expressing that the Coroner should not be told about the concerns relating to Letby.
  - 12) I have no recollection of having had any understanding of what Stephen Cross, Ian Harvey, Louis Browne, Dr Jayaram or Dr Saladi's attitude was in relation to the Coroner being made aware of the concerns relating to Letby.
  - 13) I have been asked to consider the following specific events, as recorded in the notebook of Joshua Swash (**page 7 of INQ0108405**) and specifically the circumstances connected with the entry under "Child A (Inquest)".

- a) *"Speak to Claire regarding logistics of pre-inquest conference call"*. I have reviewed my notebooks (already exhibited to the Inquiry) and been through my emails and documents and have no record or recollection of this telephone call. However, it was usual practice for me to pass on messages to Stephen Cross. We met on most days. He could then telephone the person back directly, which he sometimes would do. I have no notes in my notebook about returning the call to Joshua Swash. As this was a call about logistics, I could have been arranging a meeting room and/or a conference phone for them to meet in as Stephen's office would not have been big enough.
- b) *"Ask Claire if she knows if Louis has spoken to SPC regarding 'nurse X'."* I have reviewed my notebooks (already exhibited to the Inquiry) and been through my emails and documents and have no record or recollection of this telephone call. However, it was usual practice for me to pass on messages to Stephen Cross when we met (almost daily) and he could then telephone the person back. I have no notes in my notebook about returning the call to Joshua Swash and responding to his query, so it is likely that Stephen spoke directly to Joshua Swash.
- c) As advised in my previous statement to the Inquiry, I do not my 2016 emails due to an issue with my laptop. Therefore, I have limited documentation to refer to aid me in my response to this specific matter.

14) I have no further documents to exhibit.

#### Statement of Truth

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true. I understand that proceedings may be brought against anyone who makes, or causes to be made, a false statement in a document verified by a statement of truth without an honest belief in its truth.

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

**Personal Data**

Dated: 10 NOVEMBER 2004