

"29 June 16. Execs.

- Call from TC to defer CQC comms in light of NNU concerns raised. (09:16)*
- No issues identified by CQC.*
- Need to understand all issues but would not be good timing for Trust or CQC to present 'Good' in light of current concerns."*

10. Whilst I have no independent recollection of this call, I can see from Alison's notes that I advised to defer the communication which we were due to release in respect of the recent CQC report which rated the Trust as "Good" following the CQC's inspection in February 2016.

11. In piecing together events on 29 June 2016, it is my belief that I must have been made aware of the concerns regarding the Neonatal Unit between my arrival at the Trust that morning, likely around 08:30, and my call to Alison Kelly at 09:16. My assumption is that on my arrival at the Trust, Ian Harvey and Stephen Cross briefly updated me in relation to the concerns regarding the Neonatal Unit. This then led to my call to Alison Kelly at 09:16 to advise that there were some neonatal matters of concern that had been brought to my attention and that, in light of this, we needed to pause any communication due to be released in relation to the CQC rating.

12. At this point in time, I was hearing concerns regarding the Neonatal Unit for the first time and needed to understand the nature and full detail of the concerns, the potential implications, and to agree any actions required with my colleagues. Until this was clear, it was appropriate in my mind that we paused on communications regarding the outcome of the CQC inspection conducted in February 2016.

Executive Team meeting at 10:00, 29 June 2016

13. As outlined at paragraph 171 of my statement dated 13 August 2024 [INQ0107708], I attended the Executive Team meeting at 10:00 on 29 June 2016. I have considered Stephen Cross' note of this meeting [INQ0106816, p.4-5 / INQ0003364] which refers