

# Thirlwall Inquiry

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## ALL OF THE NEONATAL DEATHS LINKED TO THE COUNTESS OF CHESTER HOSPITAL IN 2015 AND 2016

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### Overview

1. This document sets out an index to all of the neonatal deaths linked to the Countess of Chester Hospital in 2015 and 2016. It is understood that there were 10 neonatal deaths in 2015 and 8 neonatal deaths in 2016.
2. Of the 18 deaths listed in this document:
  - a. 13 deaths occurred on the Neonatal Unit at the Countess of Chester Hospital and have been the subject of a police investigation.
  - b. 4 deaths occurred on other Hospital Neonatal Units post transfer and have been the subject of a police investigation, this includes Baby K.
  - c. 1 death occurred on the Central Labour Suite at the Countess of Chester Hospital (a separate unit from the nurseries where the unexpected deaths of the indictment babies occurred). This baby was not the subject of a police investigation.
3. Two of the deaths that occurred on a Neonatal Unit (either at the Countess of Chester Hospital or other Hospital Neonatal Units post transfer) remain the subject of ongoing police investigation.
4. The cause of death recorded at post-mortem or the registered cause of death (for babies who did not have a post-mortem) is set out in this document. For indictment babies, the mode of attack/cause of death determined at the criminal trials is included. For non-indictment babies, information about the date of death and the conclusion at post-mortem or the registered cause of death is minimised to '1a.' to preserve their anonymity. Please note, '1a.' is the disease or condition recorded as immediately causing death.
5. The document also identifies which babies were included in key internal and external reviews. Core Participants have access to the findings of these reviews on Relativity.

## Neonatal Deaths on the Neonatal Unit at the Countess of Chester Hospital in 2015 and 2016

Baby	Date of Death	Time of Death	Birth Gestation (weeks)	Dr Brigham [November 2015]	Thematic Review <sup>1</sup> (Dr Brearey) [February and March 2016]	RCPCH <sup>2</sup> [October 2016]	Dr Hawdon [October 2016]	Dr McPartland [January 2017]	Conclusion at Post-Mortem	Mode of Attack / Cause of Death (Determined in the criminal trials)
<b>Baby A</b>	08.06.2015	20.58pm	31	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	1a. Unascertained (Post-mortem and Inquest)	Air embolism (injection of air into bloodstream)
<b>Baby C</b>	14.06.2015	05.58am	30	Yes <sup>3</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	1a. Widespread hypoxic/ischaemic damage to heart/myocardium 1b. Immaturity of lung 1c. Severe maternal vascular under perfusion	Air via nasogastric tube
<b>Baby D</b>	22.06.2015	04.25am	37	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	1a. Pneumonia with acute lung injury	Air embolism (injection of air into bloodstream)
<b>Baby E</b>	04.08.2015	01.40am	29	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	1a. Necrotising Enterocolitis 1b. Prematurity (No post-mortem) <sup>7</sup>	Air embolism (injection of air into bloodstream) and trauma to gastrointestinal tract causing internal bleed
Non-Indictment Baby	September 2015	05.16am	40	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes <sup>4</sup>	No	1a. Ebstein's anomaly with recurrent supraventricular tachycardia and cardiac failure	
Non-Indictment Baby	September 2015	08.52am	39	Yes	Yes	Yes <sup>5</sup>	Yes <sup>6</sup>	No	1a. Severe multiple congenital anomalies (oral facial digital syndrome)	
<b>Baby I</b>	23.10.2015	02.30am	27	No <sup>8</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	1a. Hypoxic ischaemic damage of brain and chronic lung disease of prematurity 1b. Extreme prematurity	Air via nasogastric tube / Air embolism (injection of air into bloodstream)

<sup>1</sup>There are two versions of the Thematic Review: 08.02.2016 [INQ0003217] and 02.03.2016 [INQ0006817]. The same indictment babies featured in the Thematic Review also featured in Sister Eirian Powell's Neonatal Mortality Reviews: 23.10.2015 – [INQ0003189], 19.01.2016 [INQ0003277] and 02.03.2016 [INQ0004561]. Sister Powell's first review, dated 23.10.2015, does not include the non-indictment babies that died in December 2015 and January 2016. All the non-indictment babies in the Thematic Review are captured in her reviews dated 19.01.2016 and 02.03.2016.

<sup>2</sup> The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health ("RCPCH") review of neonatal deaths is at Appendix 4 of its report [INQ0010146].

<sup>3</sup> The gestation in Dr Brigham's table [INQ0004525, Row 7] is incorrectly recorded as 31 weeks, the correct gestation is 30 weeks.

<sup>4</sup> The hospital number in Dr Hawdon's report [INQ0003172, p42-44] is recorded incorrectly with two numbers in the wrong order.

<sup>5</sup> The date of death in the RCPCH's summary chronology [INQ0010146, p1] is incorrectly recorded. The correct date is recorded in the review [INQ0010146, p6]

<sup>6</sup> The date of death in Dr Hawdon's report [INQ0003172, p20 and p44] is incorrectly recorded as January 2015, the correct date is September 2015.

<sup>7</sup> Baby E did not have a post-mortem. 1a. Necrotising Enterocolitis and 1b. Prematurity was the agreed cause of death between Dr ZA and the Coroner.

<sup>8</sup> Although Baby I's death pre-dated Dr Brigham's review, Baby I is not included.

### Neonatal Deaths on the Neonatal Unit at the Countess of Chester Hospital in 2015 and 2016

Baby	Date of Death	Time of Death	Birth Gestation (weeks)	Dr Brigham [November 2015]	Thematic Review (Dr Brearey) [February and March 2016]	RCPCH [October 2016]	Dr Hawdon [October 2016]	Dr McPartland [January 2017]	Conclusion at Post-Mortem	Mode of Attack / Cause of Death (Determined in the criminal trials)
Non-Indictment Baby	December 2015	05.30am	28	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	1a. Prematurity with sepsis (No post-mortem)	
Non-Indictment Baby	January 2016	16.15pm	30	No	Yes <sup>9</sup>	Yes	Yes	No	1a. Congenital pneumonia with inflammatory response syndrome	
Non-Indictment Baby	February 2016	19.05pm	29	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	1a. Pulmonary hypoplasia	
Non-Indictment Baby	March 2016	08.20am	40	No	No	Yes <sup>10</sup>	Yes	No	1a. Multiple congenital anomalies (including dysplasia)	
<b>Baby O</b>	23.06.2016	17.47pm	33	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	1a. Haemorrhage to peritoneal space 1b. Rupture of subcapsular haematoma 1c. Prematurity	Air embolism (injection of air into nasogastric tube and bloodstream) and inflicted trauma to the liver
<b>Baby P</b>	24.06.2016	16.00pm	33	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	1a. Prematurity	Air via nasogastric tube

<sup>9</sup> The date of death in the Thematic Reviews: 08.02.2016 [INQ0003217, p6] and 02.03.2016 [INQ0006817, p6] is incorrectly recorded as January 2015, the correct date is January 2016. The date of death is also incorrectly recorded in the 19.01.2016 version of Sister Powell's Neonatal Mortality Review [INQ0003277, p9].

<sup>10</sup> The date of death in the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health review [INQ0010146, p3 row 7] is incorrectly recorded.

**Neonates born at the Countess of Chester Hospital who died at a different hospital post transfer in 2015 and 2016**

Baby	Date of Death	Time of Death	Birth Gestation (weeks)	Circumstances in which baby was transferred	Dr Brigham [November 2015]	Thematic Review (Dr Brearey) [February and March 2016]	RCPCH [October 2016]	Dr Hawdon [October 2016]	Dr McPartland [January 2017]	Conclusion at Post-Mortem	Mode of Attack / Cause of Death (Determined in the criminal trials)
Non-Indictment Baby	April 2015	Irrelevant	40	Baby was born at the Countess of Chester but died at a different hospital days after being transferred.	Yes <sup>11</sup>	Yes	Yes	No	No	Hypoxic-ischaemic encephalopathy (No post-mortem)	
Non-Indictment Baby	October 2015	Irrelevant	29	Baby was born at the Countess of Chester but died at a different hospital one month and three weeks after being transferred.	No	No	No	No	No	Multi-organ failure (No post-mortem)	
Non-Indictment Baby	February 2016	Irrelevant	30	Baby was born at the Countess of Chester. A few days later they suffered a collapse and were transferred to another hospital where the baby died later that same day.	No	No	Yes	No	No	Sepsis and pneumonia (No post-mortem)	
<b>Baby K</b>	20.02.2016	Irrelevant	25	Baby K was born at the Countess of Chester and suffered a collapse. Afterwards Baby K was transferred to a different hospital where she died days later.	No	No	No	No	No	1a. Extreme prematurity 1b. Severe respiratory distress syndrome (No post-mortem) <sup>12</sup>	Deliberate dislodgment of endotracheal tube (causing collapse not death)

<sup>11</sup> The gestation in Dr Brigham's table [INQ0004525, Row 4] is incorrectly recorded as 41 weeks, the correct gestation is 40 weeks.

<sup>12</sup> Baby K did not have a post-mortem. 1a. Extreme prematurity and 1b. Severe respiratory distress syndrome is the cause of death on the death certificate.

**Neonates that died on the Central Labour Suite at the Countess of Chester in 2015 and 2016**

<b>Baby</b>	<b>Date of Death</b>	<b>Time of Death</b>	<b>Birth Gestation (weeks)</b>	<b>Dr Brigham [November 2015]</b>	<b>Thematic Review (Dr Brearey) [February and March 2016]</b>	<b>RCPCH [October 2016]</b>	<b>Dr Hawdon [October 2016]</b>	<b>Dr McPartland [January 2017]</b>	<b>Conclusion at Post-Mortem</b>	<b>Mode of Attack / Cause of Death (Determined in the criminal trials)</b>
Non-Indictment Baby	January 2016	Irrelevant	Irrelevant	No	No	No	No	No	Congenital abnormalities. This death was expected. (No post-mortem)	

**Thirlwall Inquiry Legal Team**

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