

THE MORECAMBE BAY INVESTIGATION

Chaired by Dr Bill Kirkup CBE

SUMMARY OF THE DISCUSSION AT THE PANEL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 15 JANUARY 2014

The Morecambe Bay Investigation held its third Panel Meeting on Wednesday 15 January at the Royal Lancaster Infirmary.

In attendance were:

Bill Kirkup CBE - Chairman of the Investigation
Geraldine Walters - Expert Advisor on Nursing
Julian Brookes - Expert Advisor on Governance
Stewart Forsyth - Expert Advisor on Paediatrics
Jacqui Featherstone – Expert Advisor on Midwifery
Oonagh McIntosh - Secretary to the Investigation
Tom Bacon – Deputy Secretary to the Investigation
Jo Fenlon – Assistant Documents and Evidence Manager
Hannah Knight - Analyst to the Investigation

No	Item	Lead Person
1	Welcome and Chairman's opening comments	
The Chairman welcomed the Panel to the Royal Lancaster Infirmary. The Chairman explained the Panel were meeting in Lancaster to enable an informal visit to the maternity unit to take place after the meeting.		
2	Apologies	
Apologies were received from the Panel's expert advisors on obstetrics, Catherine Calderwood and ethics, Jonathan Montgomery.		
3	Notes of the previous Panel Meeting and matters arising	Oonagh McIntosh
The Panel discussed draft summaries of the first two Meetings. They concluded that the summaries need to be as informative and transparent as possible however they should not provide a level of detail which could allow the reader to pre-empt any of the Investigation's outcomes. The Secretariat committed to provide revised drafts. The Panel also agreed Meeting agenda's should be published.		

<p>The Panel returned to the draft set of questions prepared to ensure each term of reference is fully addressed. The Panel considered this was a useful summary of the key areas to be addressed and asked for the questions to be mapped to potential sources of data. The Panel noted the complexity and interdependencies of the terms of reference that the questions should reflect. The questions will be regularly reviewed throughout the evidence gathering process and revised as appropriate.</p> <p>The Panel discussed the emerging findings on incident reporting; specifically the number of maternity and obstetric incidents reported at the Trust between 1 January 2004 and 30 June 2013, and how they would assess these. It was agreed that the Panel should be made aware of the number and some detail of all of the incidents and may conclude that a random sample of these should be considered in greater detail. This would focus particularly on whether incidents were appropriately reported.</p> <p>The Chairman restated the intention to review all serious untoward incidents that occurred during the period of time the Investigation is reviewing.</p>		
4	Proposed dates for hearing evidence	Oonagh McIntosh
<p>The Panel agreed they should establish additional meeting dates for hearing evidence over the coming months and agreed to confirm their availability by the end of the week.</p>		
5	Management of material supplied to and evidence gathered by the Investigation	Oonagh McIntosh
<p>The Panel discussed the arrangements for storage and retention of evidence, both during the Investigation and after the Investigation Reports. The Panel also considered the Investigation's approach when individuals invited to give oral evidence ask to review relevant documentation prior to their attendance. It was agreed it should be the responsibility of employers or ex-employers to provide witnesses with access to documents. The Investigation would direct them accordingly. This would be included in a witness management protocol that would be agreed by the Panel and shared with all interested organisations.</p>		
6	Panel response to queries raised by the families on procedural matters	Bill Kirkup
<p>The Panel discussed responses the Chairman gave to family members the weekend prior to the meeting. These related to queries raised with him about: the composition of the Panel, the ability for families to nominate a representative to attend hearings and the anonymity of interviewees. These responses were discussed and endorsed by the Panel.</p>		

7	Latest data analysis	Hannah Knight
The Investigation's Analyst presented further contextualised data on the Trust's demographics compared to the national picture, particularly focusing on maternal demographics. Information related to the size of the maternity units in question was also presented.		
8	The informal visit to maternity and neonatal units in the Trust and the meeting with some of the Executive Board	Bill Kirkup
<p>Following the Panel Meeting an informal visit to the maternity and neonatal services at Royal Lancaster Infirmary was undertaken. The Panel then divided into two sub-groups. The first group visited the maternity and neonatal services at Furness General Hospital while the second group met with some of the Trust's Executive Team in Kendal.</p> <p>The first group was made up of: Bill Kirkup; Jacqui Featherstone; and Stewart Forsyth.</p> <p>The second group was made up of...</p> <p>Julian Brookes; Geraldine Walters; and Oonagh McIntosh. (Jonathan Montgomery and Catherine Calderwood also joined this meeting by telephone conference)</p> <p>These informal visits were to help set into context the evidence the Panel is hearing. The visits to the maternity and neonatal units were to assist the Panel's understanding of their layouts as well as to learn how services are currently delivered. The meeting with some of the Trust's Executive Team was taking place to help the Panel establish how governance procedures are operated and what the involvement of non-executive Directors is.</p>		
9	Date and venue of next meeting	
The next Panel Meeting will take place on Thursday 13 February, at Park Hotel, Preston.		