THE MORECAMBE BAY INVESTIGATION

University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust (UHMBT)
Maternity and Neonatal Services Investigation

Thursday 11 September 2014

Held at:
Park Hotel (Council Building)
East Cliff,
Preston.

Before:

Mr Julian Brookes -- Expert Adviser, Governance Dr Catherine Calderwood -- Expert Adviser, Obstetrics Ms Jacqui Featherstone -- Expert Adviser, Midwifery Professor Jonathan Montgomery -- Expert Adviser, Ethics Professor Stewart Forsyth -- Expert Adviser, Paediatrics

Ms Oonagh McIntosh -- Secretary to the Investigation Mr Nick Heaps - Deputy Secretary to the Investigation

Panel Meeting

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PANEL MEETING 1

- 2 MR BROOKES: Right, good morning,
- 3 everybody. A lovely sunny day. Thank you
- 4 very much for coming today, this is a
- 5 meeting of the Panel of the Morecambe Bay
- 6 investigation.
- 7 I am chairing this meeting on behalf
- 8 of Bill, who unfortunately cannot be here
- 9 today and we also have apologies from
- 10 Geraldine Walters and Jimmy as well.
- 11 We have got a smaller agenda today
- ·12 which is probably right given most of the
- 13 our attention will be based on the
- 14 interviews which we will also be going
- 15 through today.
- 16 Firstly, can I start with matters
- 17 arising from the last meeting. Can I turn
- 18 to you, Oonagh?
- 19 MS McINTOSH: There is only one matter
- 20 arising and, of course, it has been an
- 21 ongoing arising matter from the last few
- 22 meetings which is the conversations that
- 23 the Chairman and I have been having with
- 24 PHSO -- the former
- 25 Parliamentary Ombudsman and her deputy and

- 1 regarding their attendance at interview.
- 2 As you know, they are accountable to
- 3 Parliament and they are not actually
- 4 accountable to independent investigations
- 5 but, despite that, they have agreed they
- 6 will come along. So they jointly are
- 7 coming to attend for interview on 1st
- 8 October and that is a really good move and
- 9 reflects the co-operation that the
- 10 Investigation has had with organisations
- 11 and the PHSO in particular. So it is good
- 12 news for us and it will be well received
- 13 by the families.
- 14 MR BROOKES: Excellent and thank you for
- 15 all the hard work you have done on that.
- 16 I know it has been a long process but a
- 17 successful outcome.
- 18 Are there any other matters arising?
- 19 MS McINTOSH: No.
- 20 MR BROOKES: Nothing? Okay.
- 21 If we move on to the next item on the
- 22 agenda, which is an update from the
- 23 sub-groups. If we can start with the
- 24 clinical sub-group that would be extremely
- 25 helpful.

- 1 PROFESSOR FORSYTH: Thank you, chairman.
- Well, we are nearer the end of the
- 3 case reviews. We have, as you know, the
- 4 baseline is to take all maternal/infant
- 5 deaths, sudden infant deaths, during the
- 6 period of the scope of the inquiry, to
- 7 review these to see if there is any
- 8 concerns within the cases and out of that
- 9 we have selected a number of cases for a
- 10 more in-depth review.
- 11 That process, as I say, is now near
- 12 completion. We have just got one or two
- 13 other cases to review that the Trust have
- 14 provided for us. But I think that within
- 15 the next week to 10 days that will be
- 16 complete. We have already, at the last
- 17 clinical sub-group, had a discussion about
- 18 some of the data that we are beginning to
- 19 analyse and collate and that will form the
- 20 basis of our report that we provide to the
- 21 Secretariat.
- 22 MR BROOKES: Excellent. Thank you.
- 23 If we can move to yours, Jonathan,
- 24 that will be helpful.
- 25 PROFESSOR MONTGOMERY: I am not sure that

- 1 there is much report since we met last
- 2 time. We have seen many people.
- 3 Of the two key bits we have been
- 4 pursuing, one of whom we have heard about
- 5 who has been in the frame, I think that
- 6 there is a still a gap in our
- 7 understanding of the Care Quality
- 8 Commission's work in the hand over in the
- 9 set up. We will have the key people who
- 10 will help us understand that.
- I have only come back into this from
- 12 leave and I hope by the rest of the day to
- 13 have a clearer plan about how we fill the
- 14 gaps and moving forward. So apologies if
- 15 it is not as powerful as we would hope it
- 16 would be in terms of how we shape it into
- 17 the response that the particular external
- 18 report, picking up the report at the last
- 19 meeting, I think we are close to a number
- 20 of them and particularly, I think, that we
- 21 have what we need now in the Fielding
- 22 Report to begin to shape how we think
- 23 about it which was a key thing we have

- 1 got.
- 2 I think the challenge for us is the
- 3 overlap between the external response
- 4 group and the internal governance because
- 5 the way that the Trust responded to those
- 6 external things comes up in both of the
- 7 bits of work.
- 8 MR BROOKES: I think that is right. As I
- 9 sit on both of those, I think some of that
- 10 needs to be seamlessly together. I think
- 11 we have created categories for work
- 12 to make that sensible for us but it
- 13 is bringing back that together, that will
- 14 be part of the challenge that is as much
- 15 for the clinical side of things as any.
- 16 Oonagh, are you in a position to
- 17 update on behalf of Geraldine?
- 18 MS McINTOSH: I think it is safe to say
- 19 that Geraldine has still got -- the group
- 20 have still got many interviews to have
- 21 where, rather like you, there are senior
- 22 people out there that she needs to see.
- 23 That starts next week, I think, with
- 24 senior people at the Trust and there are
- 25 still matters arising on the interview

- 1 programme that I know Nick needs to
- 2 discuss with the sub-group leads about
- 3 outstanding interviews to arrange.
- 4 I think she is possibly, you know,
- 5 the group that are furthest behind simply
- 6 because all her interviews have not taken
- 7 place yet and it is quite important to
- 8 bear in mind that we are only half-way
- 9 through the interview programme so, I
- 10 think, you know, there is a lot of work
- 11 still to do.
- 12 MR BROOKES: Thank you and certainly as a
- 13 member of that, it feels that way as well.
- 14 There are some really key people still to
- 15 be seen and their evidence will be
- 16 incredibly important. So it is just the
- 17 timing in terms of how that has been done.
- 18 PROFESSOR MONTGOMERY: I wonder whether it
- 19 might be sensible for the more
- 20 London-centric to get to them in London
- 21 as we did earlier on to get through the
- 22 external response. That might be easier
- 23 for us to do, and other things, than
- 24 than what we have been able to
- 25 command.

- 1 MR BROOKES: Yes, if we take that into the
- 2 discussion about dates and things like
- 3 that, that will be really helpful.
- 4 Anything else anyone wishes to say
- 5 about the sub-groups?
- 6 MS McINTOSH: Can I raise one question for
- 7 the clinical sub-group? Sorry. I have
- 8 got it under AOB, which is that Hannah had
- 9 circulated, the data pack and, you know, I
- 10 always think science is quite good really,
- 11 isn't it, because, I think, a lot of the
- 12 work in the discussion has happened at
- 13 previous Panel meetings.
- 14 She has circulated her data pack and
- 15 we have taken that as -- that is the data
- 16 pack that you can refer to in writing your
- 17 report. But you just mentioned, Stewart,
- 18 that you will be looking at data that is
- 19 specifically related to the cases you have
- 20 looked at and not any other data. I just
- 21 want to be absolutely certain.
- 22 PROFESSOR FORSYTH: Yes. Clearly now we
- 23 have been through the actual case notes
- 24 review and that data, we have had a
- 25 discussion about some of the themes that

- 1 are emerging from that. But clearly it
- 2 is right that when we need to come to
- 3 actually produce it in a report for you,
- 4 we need to go back to the written work
- 5 that Hannah did. It gives us the
- 6 epidemiology from the area and that of the
- 7 important background information for the
- 8 "clinical data.
- 9 MS McINTOSH: What we will do now then if
- 10 it is helpful, if the Secretariat will
- 11 produce for you a data pack so that you
- 12 have got it? I know you have got -- some
- 13 of you have got it electronically.
- 14 So we will do that as a matter of
- 15 priority and then you can have it as a
- 16 reference to document and we will have a
- 17 set in the room for if ever you are up
- 18 here, you do not have to cart it round
- 19 with you. But we will do that. Okay.
- 20 That is fine.
- 21 MR BROOKES: Thank you. Items five and
- 22 six then. Report writing and timetable of
- 23 Panel availability are really linked. I
- 24 would like to take those together.

- 1 It is just a reminder, and I know
- 2 members are fully aware of this, we are
- 3 getting to the critical end time -- the
- 4 critical time of the report writing,
- 5 we are looking at it at the moment. We
- 6 have only got 11-full weeks before the
- 7 date where we are expected to be producing
- 8 a pretty much nearly finished report.
- 9 That feels pretty frightening, there is
- 10 an awful lot still to do.
- I think it would be useful to
- 12 have a conversation about those
- 13 interviews and available interviews
- 14 and availability over that period of time
- 15 which would be useful for others as well
- 16 and just to make sure that we can -- we
- 17 are clear on what we need to do.
- Oonagh, is there anything you would
- 19 like to say about that?
- 20 MS McINTOSH: Just two things really. The
- 21 availability for October and November is
- 22 for interviews plus if there is need to
- 23 get together. I mean, much of the
- 24 report writing and exchanges and
- 25 commenting and, you know, contributing

- 1 will be done electronically so that will
- 2 be really good and helpful.
- 3 But actually there might be occasions
- 4 when people need to get together and, you
- 5 know, as I mentioned earlier, I have
- 6 talked a bit about this and there is
- 7 flexibility within the group. Jonathan
- 8 just said a lot of you are London based
- 9 and Bill is firmly of the view that we
- 10 will go to wherever the majority of the
- 11 people are and wherever we can have the
- 12 least impact on other people's work.
- 13 I think that is a thing we have to
- 14 continue bearing in mind. I mean, as you
- 15 know, I would like you here all the time,
- 16 you know, beavering away on this so we
- 17 don't have to do things up to the wire but
- 18 you all have responsibilities elsewhere
- 19 and they need to be honoured too. So I
- 20 think we need to be as flexible as
- 21 possible and it is not just about
- 22 interviews but getting the report right.
- 23 About report writing, the Secretary
- 24 of State is still holding the
- 25 investigation to a November submission

- 1 time. We are working to the last
- 2 working day in November. I will circulate
- 3 a timetable which I am just finalizing
- 4 with Bill -- that the penultimate draft
- 5 of the report needs to be ready by the
- 6 15th November.
- 7 That is really quite tight because then
- 8 what we will do is --
- 9 MR BROOKES: That is a Saturday.
- 10 MS McINTOSH: It is a Saturday so -- no,
- 11 it is the Friday really.
- 12 MR BROOKES: Sorry.
- 13 MS McINTOSH: And to have the penultimate
- 14 draft of the report because then there is
- 15 a process whereby, if there are criticisms
- 16 and people need to comment on anything in
- 17 the report, they will be sent the relevant
- 18 extract and we are going to have a very
- 19 tight turnaround time for that which will

- 1 be a week.
- We are going to let people know that
- 3 time in advance but we are probably going
- 4 to face criticism about that because it is
- 5 a short time period of time but so be it.
- 6 You know, we have got to crack on and do it.
- 7 Bill is giving thought at the moment to what
- 8 he's going to commission from each of the
- 9 sub-groups to contribute and he will then bring that
- 10 that together and work on a draft of the
- 11 findings, recommendations, etcetera.
- 12 Informed enormously by the work of the
- 13 sub-groups. He is not going to start from
- 14 scratch but he will be sharing that with
- 15 you.
- 16 So there is going to be a lot of back
- 17 and forth, back and forth, back and forth
- 18 and we will have a -- I am sorry to sound
- 19 tedious about this, but there will be a
- 20 process by which we will do that because
- 21 we need to make sure we are not commenting
- 22 on something that has already been amended

- 1 or agreed or whatever.
- So we will have a process for that
- 3 and things will probably come through the
- 4 Secretariat and come back out to you. It
- 5 will work and hopefully it will not seem
- 6 cumbersome but it is just to alert you to
- 7 that now rather than you think, "do you
- 8 know, I will just email Bill about it."
- 9 Well, actually, some other people
- 10 might need to know what you are saying
- 11 and, actually, that informs and affects
- 12 other things.
- 13 MR BROOKES: I absolutely think that is
- 14 incredibly valuable having been through
- 15 these before. It can be a nightmare
- 16 thinking that you have agreed a change
- 17 which actually you have not because it has
- 18 never got to the stage.
- 19 So can I just be clear, Oonagh, in
- 20 terms of the timetable that will be incredibly

- 1 helpful to have as soon as possible.
- 2 MS McINTOSH: Yes.
- 3 MR BROOKES: With key dates in there and
- 4 specifically times. So we are planning to
- 5 do rewriting on this period of time and
- 6 that kind of thing. So that we have got
- 7 some clarity in our heads because that
- 8 will help us, I think, trying to manage
- 9 our time and make sure that we do what we
- 10 need to do in the period we have got.
- Also any general rules.
- 12 MS McINTOSH: Yes.
- 13 MR BROOKES: Yes, so we are all working to
- 14 the same set of parameters, will be
- 15 extremely helpful. We are conscious in
- 16 advance of the time and pain that might
- 17 cause for you, for the co-ordinating team
- 18 because it will not be an easy process I
- 19 am sure.
- 20 MS McINTOSH: Just to let you know that,
- 21 you know, we are looking -- Nick and I are
- 22 working on engaging the services of a
- 23 professional proof reading team and a
- 24 professional publisher who will actually
- 25 help so that, you know, your work is given

- 1 added polish.
- 2 MR BROOKES: Will that also include "plain
- 3 English"?
- 4 MS McINTOSH: Yes, it will be plain
- 5 English. We will have a style guide and
- 6 we will have terminology that we do and do
- 7 not use. Catherine helped a
- 8 lot with this right at the beginning when
- 9 we were looking at the work for the case
- 10 reviews. A sort of glossary and the
- 11 terminology so that the proof readers know
- 12 exactly what should and should not
- 13 be.
- 14 . So I will be coming to you with that
- 15 and, if there is anything you want to
- 16 adding for amending please do because it
- 17 is going to be helpful.
- 18 PROFESSOR FORSYTH: Can I just add from
- 19 our perspective, I begin to think of
- 20 our discussion around this, how we
- 21 will present the clinical data. I
- 22 think from my group getting an
- 23 agreement on the structure of how we do
- 24 that with the Panel will be helpful.

- 1 MR BROOKES: That will be extremely
- 2 helpful.
- 3 PROFESSOR FORSYTH: So I think what we can
- 4 do is we can sort of, I will share my
- 5 ideas around with the clinical sub-group
- 6 and then put them to Oonagh. I think that
- 7 it is really important as to how we present
- 8 the clinical data and I think the sooner
- 9 we agree that the better. There is no
- 10 point in us writing out something then
- 11 they are going to completely rewrite it.
- 12 MS McINTOSH: Yes, absolutely.
- 13 MR BROOKES: I think there is some product
- 14 from each of the groups which we will want
- 15 to share and agree how we hand it up, yes.
- 16 PROFESSOR MONTGOMERY: Two points, one of
- 17 which is related to that, I think, that it
- 18 is very hard for us to think about what
- 19 the tone should be for the governance and
- 20 external response group without having a
- 21 sense of what should have been found.
- 22 So I think we need to know where
- 23 the clinical group is going to be.
- 24 They are all the things that

- 1 were blatantly obvious and somehow the
- 2 system did not pick up -- or a whole load
- 3 of things that might not have been picked
- 4 up systematically but need to be done.
- 5 I think we cannot get to the writing
- 6 stage, before we have a little bit of
- 7 sharing about initial choices on
- 8 whatever.
- 9 Second point which is different is
- 10 that at various stages in this process we
- 11 have discovered that lots of other people
- 12 have got their fingers in this pie and we
- 13 somehow need to build into that, those
- 14 closing weeks, a checking out with the CQC
- 15 and NHS just in case we write a report and
- 16 then, in that last fortnight, suddenly a
- 17 new investigation emerges. So we need to
- 18 think about how we protect ourselves from
- 19 that.
- 20 MS McINTOSH: Sorry, this is something I
- 21 should have mentioning earlier really. A
- 22 matter is outstanding, I apologise.
- 23 I have been talking to the Chairman
- 24 about how, as a Panel, you thoroughly
- 25 ensure that you address terms of reference

- 1 five and six and what he and I have
- 2 discussed and he is content with, is that
- 3 we write, we as an investigation, write to
- 4 all of the interested organisations -- and
- 5 there is now 25 of them but we have got
- 6 some key players -- and instead of asking:
- 7 "What have you done to improve things
- 8 and what have you done to address and how
- 9 can we be assured that your systems are now
- 10 robust and the community can have
- 11 confident in them?"
- 12 We are actually going to write to
- 13 them and I am in the process of producing
- 14 a draft for Bill to look at, which says:
- 15 "How has your organisation responded
- 16 to the recommendations in the reports that
- 17 were highlighted in our terms of reference
- 18 and, in the cases of the Trust, what have
- 19 you done about, you know, input from the
- 20 Coroner et cetera?" So unique to each
- 21 organisation, what have you done in
- 22 response to. To the Department of Health,
- 23 what have you done in your -- what are you
- 24 doing now in the new role as stewards of
- 25 the system, as sponsors of the

- 1 arm's-length bodies concerned.
- 2 A letter to each organisation, not
- 3 giving them the opportunity to flood the
- 4 investigation with thousands of pages of,
- 5 "We have done this and we have done that",
- 6 but actually, "What is the focused
- 7 progress you have made and put in place
- 8 and how can this be tested?"
- 9 It is not that you can necessarily
- 10 test it, but the Chairman's view is that
- 11 you might conclude that it is a
- 12 recommendation that the Department ensures
- 13 that the checks and balances are in place
- 14 because we have not had the opportunity to
- 15 do that; you are not equipped to do that.
- 16 Actually we get those organisations,
- 17 we give them a short period to respond to
- 18 that and, if necessary, those
- 19 organisations will be brought in for a
- 20 very short slot, say in a day -- 45
- 21 minutes per organisation -- for you to
- 22 just test out, in discussions, what they
- 23 have said in their submissions.
- 24 We are not looking at them producing
- 25 tons more material for you to plough

- 1 through, because you have not got the time
- 2 to do that, not in the 11 weeks, but to
- 3 enable you to not just focus your efforts
- 4 on the first full terms of reference, but
- 5 to make sure that no-one can question the
- 6 fact that you have not looked at terms of
- 7 reference four and five.
- 8 The discussion that we had with the
- 9 Trust last year, that some of you attended
- 10 and you went up to Lancaster and you went
- 11 to look at the clinical sites, and some of
- 12 you had meetings with some of the
- 13 Board, that was actually not considered an
- 14 evidence-gathering session; it was an
- 15 information-gathering session. Actually
- 16 this gives the Trust the opportunity, now
- 17 they have got the different management
- 18 regime in place and different individual
- 19 being appointed. They can report to you
- 20 on that so that you can address those
- 21 terms of reference too.
- 22 Bill is thinking about that and that,
- 23 again, will have an impact on availability
- 24 in October and November.

- 1 PROFESSOR MONTGOMERY: That covers a
- 2 little of the ground. It does not cover
- 3 the sort of things about things being done
- 4 done by us independently. Are we going
- 5 to --
- 6 MS McINTOSH: Keep our eye on that.
- 7 There are other things like
- 8 Healthwatch put a report out earlier in
- 9 the year about how difficult it is for
- 10 people to still navigate the complaints
- 11 process. It is about making sure that we
- 12 know, as best as we can, what else is
- 13 going on.
- 14 MR BROOKES: There is always the potential
- 15 for something. It is best endeavours
- 16 again, ensuring that we have covered the
- 17 ground.
- 18 I have got a query around sharing the
- 19 report -- two bits to it. Firstly is:
- 20 Can I be clear, that is just about factual
- 21 accuracy of their evidence?
- 22 MS McINTOSH: When we talk about "sharing
- 23 the report", we talk about sharing
- 24 sections of the report. If it is a
- 25 criticism it might actually only be a

- 1 paragraph or two paragraphs.
- 2 MR BROOKES: I understand. That is what I
- 3 am trying to clarify. Are we talking
- 4 about -- there is a difference between
- 5 sharing what they said in evidence, that
- 6 is for a factual accuracy, and sharing
- 7 elements of the report that will include
- 8 opinions from the Panel.
- 9 MS McINTOSH: They will not be getting
- 10 that. It will be factual accuracy checks.
- 11 MR BROOKES: Fine, thank you. That is
- 12 helpful.
- 13 The second is that I would be
- 14 surprised if nobody appeals against five
- 15 working days.
- 16 MS McINTOSH: I know.
- 17 MR BROOKES: I think that we need to be
- 18 comfortable with our legal position not --
- 19 MS McINTOSH: Absolutely.
- 20 MR BROOKES: We have taken advice about
- 21 the appropriateness of that, so we can be
- 22 robust because if we are not, and it
- 23 starts getting into 10 days, or 15 days,
- 24 then our ability to deliver to the
- 25 Secretary of State becomes compromised.

- 1 Better to know that five days is not
- 2 viable now, if it is not, than to find out
- 3 as we go through the process. It will be,
- 4 from past experience, something which I
- 5 know people will baulk at. Okay.
- 6 MS McINTOSH: Thank you, I will look at
- 7 that.
- 8 MR BROOKES: Is there anything else about
- 9 report writing and timetable we need to
- 10 cover?
- 11 MS McINTOSH: I do not think so at this
- 12 stage.
- 13 MR BROOKES: Jacqui, anything?
- 14 MS FEATHERSTONE: No.
- 15 MR BROOKES: We can talk about
- 16 this later. I am interested in we need to
- 17 make sure that we have got the version
- 18 control absolutely, but we also need to be
- 19 sure we have got confidential exchanges of
- 20 information. We need to be clear on how
- 21 we do that.
- 22 MS McINTOSH: We might have to do some of

- 1 it'-- quite likely we will have to do some
- 2 of it via Huddle to actually ensure
- 3 that -- especially when it comes to the
- 4 work of the clinical sub-group --
- 5 PROFESSOR FORSYTH: Yes.
- 6 MS McINTOSH: That will be anonymised.
- 7 PROFESSOR FORSYTH: I was going to make
- 8 the point to make sure that we are
- 9 anonymising data, but at the moment it is
- 10 not anonymised because we want to be able
- 11 to go through it and analyse it.
- 12 MR BROOKES: Yes.
- 13 MS McINTOSH: At the moment the other
- 14 piece of work that I need to talk to you
- 15 and Jonathan about, possibly separately,
- 16 is about the feedback to families and the
- 17 process for that and quite what -- the
- 18 Chairman thinks it needs a conversation
- 19 about that. You, with your ethics hat on.
- 20 MR BROOKES: That is incredibly important.
- 21 We need to build that into the timetable
- 22 as well. We need to be thinking as well
- 23 about the time; what happens after 15th
- 24 November. There is going to be an awful
- 25 lot of work that will still need to be

- 1 done. There will be the whole issue of a
- 2 move towards publication; some advice from
- . 3 the Secretariat around that will be
 - 4 helpful and work with the Chair on that.
- 5 MS McINTOSH: We need to also think about
- 6 the conversation that was some months ago
- 7 about the ongoing support that might be
- 8 offered to the Trust about ensuring that
- 9 they do fully understand the
- 10 recommendations and their responsibility.
- 11 There was an offer from the Panel,
- 12 which we may have an opportunity
- 13 to discuss with the Trust when we meet
- 14 them in October, about what, if anything,
- 15 can the Panel do to support making the
- 16 service stronger.
- 17 MR BROOKES: Okay. If there is nothing
- 18 else can we move to any other business? I
- 19 think, there is one item. Do you want to
- 20 do it?
- 21 MS McINTOSH: No.
- 22 MR BROOKES: It is to note there was some
- 23 notification sent to Huddle about some
- 24 media coverage around "50 deaths" at the
- 25 hospital to be further explained. I want

- 1 to make sure that everybody has seen that.
- 2 Do you know how this arose?
- 3 MS McINTOSH: They arose because the note
- 4 of the Panel meeting in which we discussed
- 5 the in excess of 200 cases had been looked
- 6 at and the figure of approximately
- 7 25 percent were looked at for more a
- 8 detailed case review, the media have
- 9 interpreted that as there are 50
- 10 suspicious deaths. I think it is safe to
- 11 say that Nick and Paul have had a lot of
- 12 conversations with the media recently, as
- 13 has Bill.
- 14 We have had some queries from relatives
- 15 saying, "Where did you get that
- 16 number from?" We have also had some
- 17 questions from interviewees saying,
- 18 interestingly, "That is a ridiculous
- 19 figure, you cannot possibly be looking
- 20 at 200".
- 21 Until the report actually explains
- 22 the process you have gone through, and how
- 23 you have looked at those figures, it
- 24 remains a bit of a mystery. Bill is not

- l prepared, as he explains, as you all do in
- 2 every interview, that we are not going to
- 3 give out information bit by bit; it will
- 4 be contained in the report but if anyone
- 5 has got any questions, if they are
- 6 concerned or distressed they can come to
- 7 us.
- 8 The media has shown a flurry of
- 9 activity about it. ITN, for example,
- 10 yesterday rang up with the question, "We
- 11 are quite surprised to know the
- 12 investigation is starting work tomorrow.
- 13 Can you tell us what is happening?"
- 14 Some arms of the media are
- 15 well informed, the local media in
- 16 in particular. Some, you know, are
- 17 not well informed and are just picking
- 18 things up.
- 19 There is going to be a Panorama
- 20 programme. Nick, you might like to say
- 21 what the Panorama programme is about
- 22 stillbirths, isn't it, in a couple of
- 23 weeks.
- 24 MR HEAPS: Yes. In a week or two. Yes.
- 25 MS McINTOSH: It is about looking at how

- the number of stillbirths can be reduced
- 2 so, you know, Panorama were interested in
- 3 what we were doing. We have made the
- 4 front page of the Daily Telegraph; it has
- 5 made lots of other papers; and we have had
- 6 some queries but not a disproportionate --
- 7 MR HEAPS: No. Most queries on Tuesday
- 8 and we have not had any more yesterday
- 9 or today. The only thing yesterday
- 10 was the investigation starting. It is
- 11 completely unrelated. Hopefully it
- 12 is --
- 13 MS McINTOSH: Also, you know, by getting
- 14 that figure out in that way, hopefully it
- 15 will mean that the detail of what you have
- 16 put in your report is reviewed, rather
- 17 than the excitement about the number;
- 18 actually looking at what is behind that.
- 19 Getting that figure out into the public
- 20 domain now hopefully, hopefully is
- 21 helpful.
- 22 MR BROOKES: Yes. Just to emphasise it

- 1 was a figure that we all agreed and
- 2 this has been picked up from the
- 3 information, that we are quite
- 4 appropriately putting onto the
- 5 Investigation's website.
- 6 PROFESSOR FORSYTH: I think we have been
- 7 open and transparent and it is reflecting
- 8 the comprehensiveness of the
- 9 Investigation. I think it will become more
- 10 evident what these figures mean when the
- 11 report is finally published.
- 12 MR BROOKES: Absolutely.
- 13 Then there was a further
- 14 announcement, which I am pleased to note,
- 15 around changes in senior management at the
- 16 Trust. Has everybody seen that as well?
- I think that is going to be helpful.
- 18 I assume we will have an opportunity to --
- 19 or will we have an opportunity to meet the
- 20 new appointments as part of the
- 21 discussions with the Trust?

- 1 MS McINTOSH: I do not know whether the
- 2 Improvement Director will be. I sincerely
- 3 hope -- it will be good if you could meet
- 4 with the Improvement Director while we are
- 5 there. I will try to find out about that.
- 6 The Medical Director is not taking up his
- 7 post until December. It is possible that
- 8 you will not get to meet the new Medical
- 9 Director, but you are interviewing the
- 10 existing -- current Medical Director and
- 11 previous Medical Director.
- 12 PROFESSOR MONTGOMERY: Just reflecting
- 13 what you were saying earlier on about us
- 14 saying it will be helpful and reflecting
- 15 what we had in interviews about the
- 16 Fielding Report. One way of tackling the
- 17 incoming Medical Director is to say; "The
- 18 Panel would you like to have an
- 19 opportunity to discuss this as part of his
- 20 induction".
- 21 MR BROOKES: That is a good idea. Yes.
- 22 Has anyone else got any other
- 23 business?
- No. The date of the next meeting is
- 25 9th October here at ten o'clock.

- 1 MS McINTOSH: It is.
- 2 MR BROOKES: With that I will close the
- 3 meeting.
- 4 MS McINTOSH: Thank you.
- 5