

## **THE MORECAMBE BAY INVESTIGATION**

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

**Wednesday, 14 January 2015**

**Held at:  
Park Hotel (Council Building)  
East Cliff, Preston, PR1 3EA**

**Before:**

**Dr Bill Kirkup CBE – (Chair)  
Professor Stewart Forsyth, Expert Adviser, Paediatrics  
Professor Jimmy Walker, Expert Adviser, Obstetrics  
Mr Julian Brookes, Expert Adviser, Governance  
Professor Jonathan Montgomery, Expert Adviser, Ethics  
Ms Jacqui Featherstone, Expert Adviser, Midwifery**

**Ms Oonagh McIntosh, Secretary to the Investigation  
Mr Nick Heaps, Deputy Secretary to the Investigation**

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**PANEL MEETING**

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(At 10.05 a.m.)

THE CHAIR: Are we all here? Okay, hello and welcome. Thank you all for braving the icy conditions in various parts of the country.

[Cross-talk]

THE CHAIR: But anyway, apologies anyone?

MS MCINTOSH: Geraldine Walters, and Catherine is a bit delayed.

THE CHAIR: Okay, thank you. Matters arising from the last meeting?

MS MCINTOSH: Very minor. I want to say thank you to the members that I asked for additional dates and availability for interviews. And thank you very much for making that happen, especially for those who made it to wet and windy Barrow last Friday.

THE CHAIR: Yes, thank you.

MS MCINTOSH: And also I asked for cooperation and flexibility around drafts of the report, and I'm grateful for that. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Okay. We have a couple of interviews this afternoon.

MS MCINTOSH: We have indeed, yes.

THE CHAIR: Okay. A brief update from each of the subgroups, Stewart?

PROF FORSYTH: Thank you. We produced a draft report, which was circulated to the other members of clinical group on about 20 December. We got comments back; we've now incorporated these. I've given a further version to Oonagh and we're just absolutely double-checking some of the data.

THE CHAIR: Okay, thank you. Jonathan?

PROF MONTGOMERY: We have a partially drafted report with, I think, a skeleton, now, which is nearly all complete. There is quite a lot of cross-checking still to do. The only other thing I would say is that I think we're drawing on some materials which were not formally submitted in terms of what were the jobs of SHAs and PCTs, but they're publically available.

THE CHAIR: As long as they're public documents that's absolutely fine. And we certainly need that, because we need the context and the background to all of these things. Okay, thank you. And Julian?

MR BROOKES: Very similar position to Jonathan, report partially drafted. There are two particular elements we still need to do some further work on, but most sections are now there. They only require some further fleshing-out. And I think then some cross-referencing to the other sections to make sure we've got coherence and

1 consistency.

2 THE CHAIR: Okay, anything else to say on updates from subgroups? Would anyone like to  
3 come in on that? Okay. And an update from me regarding the report: I think we  
4 have a timetable that we are now beginning to firm up, and we'll pursue some further  
5 discussions on that and let you know as soon as we can.

6 MR BROOKES: For clarity, then, these are the last two interviews this afternoon; is that  
7 correct?

8 THE CHAIR: As we stand today, yes. We probably shouldn't formally say that's going to be  
9 the case.

10 MR BROOKES: It's just, how do we incorporate any new information that comes along from  
11 interviews as we go along with the draft and development?

12 THE CHAIR: I don't think we are anticipating any more new interviews?

13 MS MCINTOSH: No.

14 THE CHAIR: So, I think we can press on with completing the report.

15 MR BROOKES: Thank you.

16 MS MCINTOSH: There is a chance that we might talk to a couple of organisations, but that  
17 will be in respect of terms of reference five and six, which is not what we'll need to  
18 do fact-checking on. And we can be writing that post the evidence that you have  
19 heard, unless it's about advice from the Department of Health.

20 THE CHAIR: Thank you. That's very pertinent, and I think I will just say now – I was going  
21 to explain at some point, but I'll take opportunity now – that terms of reference five  
22 and six we're operating to a different timetable on, because they don't have to go  
23 through the fact-checking and the legal warning-letters process, so we are operating  
24 on a different timetable to those, so, if you haven't seen anything on that yet, that's  
25 the reason why.

26 Okay, practical arrangements regarding the report's publication?

27 MS MCINTOSH: Just a couple of points just to alert you that I'll be getting in touch with you  
28 about when we have finalised arrangements for publication and we need to talk to  
29 you about availability and we will need to talk to you about arrangements with the  
30 families in particular.

31 We've talked about this as a clinical subgroup previously, but we'll just need to  
32 talk about that. And I need to talk to the Chair in particular. Nick, probably, will be  
33 talking to you about arrangements with the media and there are how – the point that,  
34 Jonathan, I think, had raised at a previous Panel meeting and we discussed about

1 ongoing support for interested organisations, particularly the Trust, post-publication,  
2 in explaining further what we mean by the contents of the report.

3 And then there are some very practical arrangements around venue, timings,  
4 dates etc. And, again, it's just to alert you that the secretariat will be in touch with  
5 you regarding those issues.

6 THE CHAIR: Okay. Anything on that? Any other business? Okay.

7 MS MCINTOSH: Just one from me – just that at the moment there is no date of a further  
8 Panel meeting. It may be that, as a result of ongoing discussions about the report,  
9 there may well need to be some meetings of the Panel, but they will not necessarily  
10 constitute a formal Panel meeting. And it's a 'may' only, isn't it?

11 THE CHAIR: Yes.

12 MS MCINTOSH: Most of it can be done electronically.

13 THE CHAIR: I think... Exactly, yes, including, if necessary, via telephone conference.  
14 Okay, thank you very much.

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