

Statement from Dr Dewi Evans, the lead prosecution witness at Lucy Letby's first trial:

"I had anticipated that there would be no further changes some time ago.

"I'm not familiar with the individual cases involved with the current investigation but believe that the evidence of death or injury due to deliberate harm would not meet the threshold of being 'beyond reasonable doubt'; the high bar required, correctly, to obtain a criminal conviction. It's probable that the infants involved were unwell, very unstable.

"If one could not rule out the possibility of their deterioration being the result of a natural cause, however unlikely that scenario, it would be futile to proceed with a criminal prosecution.

"I was aware also of concerns re alleged breathing tube displacements. Breathing tube displacements may occur accidentally, so proving a deliberate displacement at the 'beyond reasonable doubt' threshold would be very difficult.

"The CPS may also have considered that engaging in further prosecutions would be a gross waste of time and money. Lucy Letby is already serving 15 life sentences following her conviction for 7 murders and 8 attempted murders.

"Cheshire Police are to be congratulated for their thorough review of hundreds of babies in Chester and Liverpool. All were potential victims of England's worse [sic] female serial killer. Cheshire Police had a duty of care to review the management of all babies exposed to Lucy Letby's care between 2012 and 2016.

"It's unlikely that this will be the end of the matter from Letby's point of view. Families whose babies have died or suffered life changing injuries may revert to the Civil Court and consider a claim for damages, alleging negligent care. The Civil Court threshold for proving clinical negligence is lower; "on the balance of probability". That will be a matter for individual families and their legal team.