

Q. Moving on then, please, to [Baby C], who we have just touched upon in that last interview. The first interview in respect of [Baby C], 4 July again, 2018.

A. Yes, that's correct.

Q. We can see the interview began with introductions and caution.

A. Yes.

Q. We're going to talk about [Baby C]. At 15.31 hours on 10 June 2015, [Baby C] was born to [Parents of Baby C] at 800 grams, and [Baby C] was transferred to the neonatal ward. [Baby C] died at 05.58 hours on 14 June 2015. Do you remember [Baby C]?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you have an involvement with the care of [Baby C]?

A. Just with his resuscitation from what I remember.

Q. Okay. Can you explain to us what your involvement was then, please?

A. I'm not sure what my exact role was but I remember him requiring resuscitation.

Q. Okay.

A. I remember that he'd not long had his first feed by one of the nurses and it wasn't long after that that he deteriorated, so I'm not sure what my role was with him in that resuscitation. I think I did chest compressions. I remember we waited for the vicar to call and we carried on resuscitation efforts until the vicar arrived. And then we withdrew care and [Baby C] lived for several hours after that, around in the parents' accommodation.

Q. Okay. Are you aware of why he required resuscitation?

A. No, I don't recall the events leading up to that I just know that he had resuscitation.

Q. So you're not aware of what the circumstances of his collapse were?

A. No.

Q. Had you had contact with him up to that point?

A. Not that I recall, no.

Q. So in terms of that day in particular, do you know who his designated nurse was?

A. Sophie Ellis.

Q. What kind of time of day was this?

A. Nights. It was on nights.

Q. Your nights?

A. Yeah.

Q. And who were you designated nurse for?

A. I don't remember.

Q. So when did you first become aware of this requirement to resuscitate [Baby C]?

A. I don't remember.

Q. Was it something that you discovered, for example, or was it something you were alerted to and you reacted to?

A. I don't think I discovered it. I think I became a part of it afterwards.

Q. Okay.

A. I think I'd been asked to help.

Q. You say you don't think, is that because you don't remember?

A. I don't remember.

Q. Okay. So you said that whatever the event was, you said that it happened shortly after his first feed. Was that his first feed ever or his first feed on that shift?

A. No, I think from memory it was his first feed ever.

Q. Okay, so tell me about what happens with a baby's first feed.

A. So the doctors will tell you that they're happy for a baby to commence feeds and they will be fed via the nasogastric tube.

Q. Can you remember the feeding method specifically with regards to [Baby C]?

A. I don't know what he was fed. I believe it was nasogastric, but we wouldn't feed him any other way.

Q. Right, okay. But do you remember that specifically, when you were in resus with him?

A. No, not giving the feed, no.

Q. Okay. Were you involved with that first feed at all?

A. Not that I remember.

Q. Okay. Any care of him at all other than resus?

A. Not that I remember.

Q. So in terms of your role within the resus of him, tell us exactly what you did.

A. I think I did chest compressions but I don't know for certain.

Q. What makes you say that you think you did chest compressions?

A. Because I don't recall doing any drugs for him. I wouldn't have the airway because the doctors usually have the airway, so I think if I was involved then I would -- the other role would have been chest compressions.

Q. How do you remember that you took part in his resuscitation?

A. Because I can remember the family and the staff being there around [Baby C].

Q. Okay, so tell us about that then.

A. I believe it was -- Dr Gibbs, the consultant, was there and mum came and I think dad was at home and he had to come into the hospital and, as I say, they requested for [Baby C] to be baptised and there was a little bit of a delay in getting the vicar, so we carried on with the resuscitation efforts until the vicar could come to baptise him.

Q. But what else? Is there anything else that makes you remember him specifically in the circumstances?

A. I just remember him because he was a small baby.

Q. Do you remember which nursery he was in?

A. Nursery 1.

Q. So tell us about the other members of staff that were treating him during the resus during your contact with him?

A. I think Sophie Ellis was there.

Q. Yes?

A. I think Dr Gibbs was the consultant and I think it was Melanie Taylor and [Nurse B] that were the band 6s. And I don't think I remember anyone else.

Q. Lucy Letby then described the different roles undertaken during the course of a resuscitation and was asked:
What would happen with the resus notes?

A. So they're usually just written down in rough and then --

Q. Yes?

A. -- they're transferred into the medical notes.

Q. What happens to the rough notes?

A. They will be disposed of.

Q. Just prior to the collapse, Lucy, had you any cause to go into nursery 1 at all?

A. I don't remember.

Q. Were you working in nursery 1?

A. I don't think I was, but I don't recall which baby I was looking after.

Q. Okay. And you don't remember the process of how you ended up in nursery 1 with the resus?

A. No.

Q. You've then said that [Baby C], you understood, after the first feed, had suffered a deterioration. Do you remember what that deterioration was?

A. I think he dropped his oxygen levels.

Q. Right, okay. So you think or you know that he dropped his respiratory --

A. I think.

Q. Is that from memory?

A. Yes.

Q. How would you become aware of that then, Lucy?

A. Either somebody alerted me or his monitor would alarm.

Q. Right. Do you remember somebody alerting you about that?

A. I don't remember.

Q. Lucy Letby then explained that during resuscitation there had been a delay while the vicar attended to baptise [Baby C].

Right, you mean you mentioned about the parents being there. Were they there when you first arrived or did they come --

A. No, I think mum came after and then dad was a little while after that.

Q. Okay.

A. Because I think mum was resident upstairs on the ward so she came quite quickly but I think dad was at home.

Q. And you don't remember if anyone else was giving resuscitation to him?

A. Not that I remember, no.

Q. Lucy Letby was asked about the decision to cease resuscitation:

Right, and who has the -- well, makes the final decision?

A. The consultant.

Q. And that was Dr Gibbs, was it?

A. Yes.

Q. Okay. You say that then you withdrew care and [Baby C] was with his parents for several hours. Did you have -- apart from the resus did you have any interaction with them following that?

A. Yes, I think I checked a dose of morphine because he was having morphine around the parents' accommodation.

Q. So the care essentially carries on, does it?

A. He wasn't receiving active treatment, he was just having morphine for pain relief.

Q. Yes.

A. He wasn't having any other, you know, respiratory support or anything like that --

Q. Okay.

A. -- but he was having the morphine.

Q. And what was your knowledge of [Baby C]'s clinical position, obviously prior to the deterioration?

A. I don't really recall.

Q. Okay. Just a couple of questions. Did you have cause to alter or deal with [Baby C]'s equipment that was attached to him at all?

A. No.

Q. Or handle [Baby C] in any way? Did you have a need to handle him?

A. I don't recall handling [Baby C]. I would have done to assist with the resuscitation. I don't recall handling him beforehand.

Q. When you came on duty, Lucy, you have told us that Sophie was the designated nurse for [Baby C]. Do you recall who you were working with on that day?

A. No.

Q. Do you know if you were asked to look after any baby whilst a nurse was on her break at all, in particular [Baby C]?

A. Not that I recall.

Q. Do you remember whereabouts in nursery 1 [Baby C] was?

A. Yes.

Q. Then Lucy Letby was able to mark on a plan where [Baby C] had been situated:

In relation to [Baby C]'s parents, did you have any contact with them at all? I know they were there when [Baby C] collapsed. Any other sort of contact with them at all?

A. Obviously I know I went to [Baby C] when he was around in the family room with mum and dad.

Q. Right, okay.

A. So I would have had some interaction with them then.

Q. Any prior to the collapse?

A. Not that I remember.

Q. Okay. Again, I know it's another difficult time for you, Lucy, but how did you deal with that? How did you feel after looking after [Baby C]?

A. I found [Baby C]'s quite hard because of the fact that he did live for several hours afterwards, which I hadn't seen before. A baby sort of gasping in the parents' room like that, and then Sophie was particularly upset. I think it had been her first death as well and she was quite upset about it.

Q. And following [Baby C]'s death, do you -- were you involved with moving (sic) any of the equipment from him at all?

A. Not that I remember.

Q. Was there any particular task that you were involved with after [Baby C]'s death?

A. As I say, I think I checked some morphine, but I don't recall anything, any other role.

Q. Okay. You talked about the memory box previously on the babies. Were you involved with that at all?

A. I don't remember. I think I may have done hand and footprints, but I can't remember specifically.

Q. Would there be a reason why you've done that? You weren't the designated nurse, were you, for [Baby C]?

A. No, I don't know whether I helped Sophie with them.

Q. Okay.

A. I can't remember for definite. I have a vague recollection of doing them whilst he was sat with mum and dad, but I can't remember for certain.

Q. What about giving [Baby C] a bath? Did you do anything like that?

A. I don't remember.

Q. No? Were you involved at all with the post-mortem arrangements for [Baby C]?

A. No.

Q. And I take it you didn't have any contact with the family afterwards following that?

A. No.

Q. What about a debrief? Were you involved in a debrief? Do you recall a debrief for [Baby C]?

A. I don't recall a debrief, no.

Q. Again, you know, we talked about how you were dealing with these situations. Do you remember specifically with [Baby C] how you -- I don't know whether you spoke to any of your friends or family to try and ease your mind.

A. I know Sophie and I had quite a long conversation. Sophie and I were both living in the same area at the time, in nursing accommodation, and we had quite a lengthy conversation about it. And the girls that were on shift that night, we spoke about it. I don't recall who else I told specifically.

Q. Okay. Is there anything else you can help us with regarding [Baby C]?

A. No, I don't think so.

Q. At that stage the interview regarding [Baby C] came to an end.

A. Yes, that's correct.

Q. Thank you. Moving on, please, to the next interview. The second interview.

Lucy I now want to talk to you about [Baby C]. Are you okay to carry on?

A. Yes.

Q. Then the officers interviewing summarised the previous interview concerning [Baby C] and Lucy Letby was asked:
Okay, Nurse Sophie Ellis has been spoken to, Lucy. She was out of the room at the nurses' station when [Baby C]'s alarm sounded. She says that you had your own designated baby who was in nursery 3. Do you agree with that?

A. No, as I've said before I don't remember who I was looking after on that shift. I would have to look and check.

Q. She goes on to say that when she was -- went into nursery 1 in response to the alarms, she says that you were standing next to [Baby C]'s cot as she entered. Do you agree with that?

A. I don't remember specifically when I entered the room or why I entered the room.

Q. Nurse Sophie Ellis says that you said, "He's just dropped his HR in saturations" (sic), or something similar. Do you recall saying that to Sophie Ellis?

A. No.

Q. You were placed into nursery 3 during this shift and had your own designated baby to look after; do you agree with this?

A. Not from memory. I'd have to check. If that's documented as being right then yes, it would of (sic). I don't remember.

Q. Okay, Lucy, have you got any explanation as to why you were already in nursery 1 when [Baby C]'s alarms were sounding?

A. I don't recall from memory. I may have been in there doing the checks that we do in the ITU room, I may have been getting a drug out of the cupboard, might have been using the computer. I might have heard his alarms, I don't -- I don't recall.

Q. Okay. What checks are they, Lucy?

A. There's the resus trolley that's in the room and the ITU spaces were all checked each evening.

Q. Would you do all that whilst caring for other babies then?

A. Yes.

Q. Had you been treating [Baby C] at this time, Lucy?

A. Not that I remember.

Q. Have you got any explanation as to why you were stood at [Baby C]'s cot side as Sophie Ellis has told us?

A. No. As I say, not from memory. I don't recall why specifically I was there.

Q. The comments that you've made to her, "He's just dropped his HR and saturations", or something similar to that. Have you got any explanation as to why you made that comment to Sophie?

A. That's what I must have witnessed alarming on the alarm and that's when she come in -- sorry, that's when she's come.

Q. You have got no explanation as to why you're in nursery 1?

A. No. As I said, I don't recall.

Q. And then the next part of the interview is summarised.
The views expressed by Dr Evans and other clinicians concerning [Baby C]'s collapse were summarised.
Lucy Letby agreed that [Baby C] was stable prior to his collapse. Lucy Letby was asked about messaging, downloaded from her mobile telephone.

Lucy Letby was asked:

So this is a conversation between you and Jen. Who would Jen be?

A. Jen is a nursery nurse on the unit, used to be.

Q. What's Jenny's surname, Lucy?

A. Jones.

Q. Okay. So you said there:

"I just keep thinking about Mon."

I presume there you're saying Monday. I feel I need to be in 1.

"I feel I need to be in 1 to overcome it but [Nurse B] said no."

Jen's then responded minutes later:

"I agree with her. Don't think it will help. You need a break from full-on IT. U you have to let it go or it will eat you up. I know not easy and will take time."

Do you recall that conversation, Lucy, that you had with Jen?

A. No.

Q. Can you tell me where you were when it took place?

A. No, I don't remember the conversation.

Q. What do the messages relate to?

A. I don't remember.

Q. What is it that you felt like you needed to overcome, Lucy?

A. I'm assuming it's this, I'd had a previous bad experience in 1, I don't know what date.

Q. Okay. So this is 13 June, right?

Then Lucy Letby confirmed that with that date in mind, [Baby A] had died on 8 June 2015 and was asked:

Is that what you could have been referring to, Lucy?

A. Possibly, yes.

Q. You then went on to say to Jen:

"Not the vented baby necessarily, I just feel I need to be in 1 to get the image out of my head. Mel said the same and [Nurse B] let her go. Being in 3 is eating me up. All I can see is him in 1."

You've then gone on to say:

"It probably sounds odd but it's how I feel."

Jen replied:

"Well it's up to you but don't think it's going to help. It sounds very odd and I would be complete opposite. I can understand [Nurse B]. She's trying to look after you all."

Lucy Letby was then asked:

Describe the image that you're referring to there, Lucy.

A. I think it's the image of [Baby A].

Q. Okay. What do you mean by "eating you up"?

A. It's very difficult. Whenever you see a dead baby, it's very hard to get that image out of your head.

Q. And explain to me why being in nursery 1 is going to help you deal with that image?

A. Because I would see different babies in there, it'd be a different scenario to the scenario that I had that time when he died.

Q. How do you know it's going to be a different scenario?

A. Well, if it's a different baby, it's different staff, it's a different night.

Q. You then went on to say:

"Well that's how I feel and when I've experienced it at the Women's, I have needed to go straight back and have a sick baby, otherwise the image of the one you lost never goes. Why send Mel if she's trying to look after us? She was in bits over it. Don't expect people to understand but I know how I feel and how I've dealt with it before. I've voiced that so I can't do any more. People should respect that."

Asked:

When you say the image, how did it help it disappear?

A. How did what help?

Q. The image. You've said:

"I needed to go straight back and have a sick baby otherwise the image of the one you lost never goes."

A. Because I think when you go to the same incubator space and there's a different baby in there you sort of kind of let that other baby go. Until you go into the space you just always see that baby until there's another baby there.

Q. So is it the same space or the same nursery?

A. Um, both, really.

Q. And you've said that -- you've voiced it:

"I've voiced it so I can't do any more. People should respect that."

Who did you voice it to, Lucy?

A. I don't remember from memory. I'm assuming from reading that it was [Nurse B].

Q. Okay. At 23.01, you then went on to send a further text to Jen:

"Women's can be awful but I learnt the hard way you have to speak up to get support. I lost a baby one day and a few hours later was given another dying baby just born in the same cot space. The girls there said it was important to overcome the image. It was awful. By the end of the day I realised -- I realised they were right."

Which baby were you referring to there, Lucy?

A. I don't remember.

Q. You then went on to say to Jen:

"Anyway, forget it. I can only talk about it properly with those who knew him and Mel not interested so I'll overcome it myself. You get some sleep."

Jen's then responded to you, Lucy, saying:

"That's a bit mean, isn't it? Don't have to know him to understand. We have all been there."

You have then gone on:

"I don't mean it like that. Just that only those who saw him know what image I have in my head. Forget it. I'm obviously making more of it than I should."

How did you feel at the time, Lucy, when (sic) Jen's response to what you were trying to tell her?

A. Frustrated.

Q. Mm-hm. Is it fair to say that it appears that Jen didn't understand how you were feeling at this time?

A. Yeah.

Q. And from looking at those messages and reading them, it appears that towards the end of the communication you're upset by the tone of Jen's messages. Is that how you were feeling?

A. Yeah -- well, I -- I can't remember specifically, but I think I just felt that we weren't really getting anywhere with the conversation.

Q. Okay. Is it not the compassionate response that you were maybe expecting from her?

A. Yeah.

Q. Okay. At 23.09, Lucy, is when you sent the final message, that final message, to Jen on that shift, on that day, 13 June, 23.09. And it was a night shift as you've already confirmed in your previous interview. Where were you when you sent that message to her?

A. I don't remember.

Q. Do you agree that you were at work?

A. I don't -- was I on shift that day?

Q. Sorry [says the officer] and also in those text messages, Lucy, at 21.55, you've actually said, "Being in 3 is eating me up". So would that suggest that you were on the unit at that time at 21.55?

A. I'm at work, yes.

Q. Yes.

A. Yeah.

Q. And "being in 3" would suggest that you're working in nursery 3?

A. Yes.

Q. Okay. Sorry. No, so where would you be then, using your mobile phone on the unit when you were working, Lucy?

A. I don't recall specifically on that occasion. On nights we quite often have our phones out at the nurses' station.

Q. Okay. I'll just tell you something, Lucy, that might help you. So you sent that final text to Jen at 23.09 and [Baby C] collapsed at 23.15.

A. Right.

Q. So 6 minutes after you sent that message, [Baby C] has collapsed.

A. Right.

Q. What are your thoughts on that?

A. I don't have any thoughts on that.

Q. So you sent a text to Jen at 23.09, [Baby C]'s alarm has then sounded, Sophie Ellis has seen you at his cot side, and he collapsed at 23.15 hours.

A. Right.

Q. What are your thoughts on that?

A. I don't recall where I was at that time that I sent that text. I might have been at the nurses' station and then I've gone into nursery 1 to do something else.

Q. Mm-hm. The text messages suggest that you were frustrated, Lucy, that you weren't working in nursery 1. Do you agree? I'll just remind you what you said there --

A. Yes. I think I felt that it would help if I could have been in nursery 1.

Q. "I just feel I need to be in 1 to get the image out of my head. Being in 3 is eating me up. All I can see is him in 1."
Yeah?

A. Yes.

Q. And within 6 minutes, as my colleague said, you were in nursery 1?

A. Yeah.

Q. Do you agree with that, Lucy?

A. Yes.

Q. And within them 6 minutes, [Baby C]'s collapsed?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you cause [Baby C] to collapse, Lucy, when you went into him 6 minutes after that conversation?

A. No.

Q. You were the only staff member in the nursery at the time [Baby C] collapsed as well, weren't you?

A. Yes.

Q. Yeah. And you were seen at his cot side when his alarm sounded, weren't you?

A. Yeah.

Q. And at that time you were feeling frustrated and upset, which we've gone through, by the tone of your messages; do you agree with that?

A. Yes.

Q. You've then gone on to attack [Baby C]?

A. No, I haven't, no.

Q. Lucy, did you murder [Baby C]?

A. No.

Q. Can you give us any explanation, Lucy, as to how [Baby C] died?

A. No.

Q. I think we'll bring the interview to a close at that point. It is 18.35 and the interview is now stopped.

Officer, if we can move on to the third occasion, please, upon which Lucy Letby was interviewed about [Baby C].

We can see the date again, 10 November 2020. The names of those present. This section of the interview begins:

Okay, Lucy, we're going to move on to [Baby C].

The officers summarised previous interviews regarding [Baby C]. Lucy Letby was asked:

Is there anything you want to add regarding [Baby C] before we move on, Lucy?

A. No.

Q. Okay. Dr Katherine Davis states that she tried to intubate [Baby C] on three occasions, which were unsuccessful, and she noted that [Baby C]'s vocal cords were swollen and blocking the route and was therefore unable to complete the procedure. Have you got any explanation for the trauma to [Baby C]'s airway?

A. No.

Q. Did you cause that injury, Lucy?

A. No.

Q. [Father of Baby C] is the father of [Baby C] and he states that whilst [Baby C] was dying in one of the nurseries, the nurses said to him words similar to: "You have said your goodbyes now. Do you want to put him in here?"

Referring to a basket. He described how the comments shook him and upset his wife [Mother of Baby C] as [Baby C] hadn't died yet. Do you remember making that comment, Lucy?

A. No. Was it myself that said it? I... I...

Q. So if it wasn't you, do you remember who it might have been?

A. No, I don't recall that conversation.

Q. "Do you want to put him in here?", referring to a basket?

A. It was -- it was a basket that they -- sorry, it was a basket that they go in, that they go and take round into the family room, so that they can have time with the baby, but we weren't taking [Baby C] away or anything in the basket.

Q. The parents obviously found the comment very upsetting at that time.

A. Yeah, yeah, that's very sad.

Q. You don't recall saying it?

A. No.

Q. [Nurse B], she said she was the nurse in charge at the time [Baby C] passed away and she gave the aftercare duties with the parents to Melanie Taylor. Do you know Melanie Taylor?

A. Yes.

Q. She said she tried to send you back to JE

A. Yes.

Q. She said she tried to send you back to JE, who you were responsible for in nursery 3. However, you kept trying to help Melanie. Is this true? Do you remember that?

A. No, I can't remember.

Q. Why would you want to help Melanie when you had your own baby to care for, Lucy, if what [Nurse B] is saying is correct?

A. Because as a unit we usually pull together and try and support each other on something like that.

Q. When the nurse in charge asks you to do something, wouldn't you do it?

A. Yeah. I don't recall that I didn't.

Q. Okay.

A. But I, you know, didn't care for my patient [as read].

Q. So in relation to social media, Lucy, as I've just informed you, [Baby C] was born on 10 June 2015 and he died on 14 June 2015. On 14 June, at 15.52 hours, you searched for both [Father of Baby C] and for [Mother of Baby C]. Do you remember making those searches on Facebook?

A. No.

Q. Why would you have done these searches, Lucy?

A. I'm not sure.

Q. Is there anything you wish to add regarding this?

A. No.

Q. So as we said, [Baby C] was born on 10 June, died on 14 June, Lucy. I want to talk to you about the messages on your phone again.

That's the exhibit reference for the download for the phone, JD-13.

A. Yes.

Q. What nursery was [Baby C] in on the night of the 13th, do you remember?

A. Nursery 1.

Q. Prior to [Baby C] collapsing at 23.15 on the 13th, you were messaging Jen on WhatsApp, which started around 21.30 hours. There were 21 messages, messages between you, which both stopped at 23.09 hours. 21 messages in total. And you said [at tile 149] you needed to be in nursery 1 to get the image of the baby on Monday out of your head. You said that Mel had asked to move into nursery 1 and [Nurse B] had allowed her. Had you asked to move too into that nursery to care for --

A. I don't remember.

Q. Did Mel not allow you to move?

A. I don't remember.

Q. You said in one of the messages:

"From when (sic) I've experienced it at Women's I've needed to go straight back and have a sick baby, otherwise the image of the one you've lost never goes."

I question the fact Mel would not let you go into number 1. Do you remember saying that, Lucy?

A. I can remember that. I don't remember the whole thing about where I was and what I'd asked Mel to do, but I do remember the -- above the -- that I mentioned the baby and needing to be in ITU, yeah.

Q. So if you wanted to get into nursery 1, how did you feel about not being allowed into nursery 1?

A. I don't remember specifically. It's just something that when you experience being with a sick baby, me personally, to then go into another nursery and have special care babies, it makes it very hard again to go back into an ITU environment, so I prefer to sort of go straight back into it.

Q. And that really concludes what was said in that third interview in respect of [Baby C]?

A. Yes.

Q. Thank you.