

PRIVATE EYE

SPECIAL REPORT PART 37

A photograph of Lady Justice Thirlwall, a woman with short blonde curly hair and glasses, wearing a black jacket. She is seated at a dark wooden podium with ornate carvings. In front of her is a laptop and a nameplate that reads "Lady Justice Thirlwall". Two microphones are positioned on either side of the podium. The background is a solid dark blue.

Lady Justice Thirlwall

THE LESSONS OF THE LUCY LETBY CASE

DR PHIL HAMMOND (MD)

THE LUCY LETBY CASE: PARTS 37



Insulin impetus

THE Criminal Cases Review Commission (CCRC) may have the new evidence it requires to refer the convictions of Lucy Letby back to the appeal court.

Letby was convicted firstly and unanimously on two cases of attempted murder by insulin poisoning because the prosecution successfully argued that very high ratios of insulin to C peptide (I/C) in two premature babies could *only* mean they had been poisoned with insulin, and that attempted murder by Letby was far more likely than accidental poisoning, even though she wasn't always on duty.

The theory was proposed that Letby had spiked nutrition bags with insulin, and the jury accepted that she must have had a "Nostradamus-like ability" to predict when an infusion was going to fail for unforeseen reasons, and which of the multiple bags the nurses would choose to replace it with so she would know in advance which one to spike. This ludicrously fanciful theory trumped all others because the judge, Mr Justice Goss, told the jury that the "abnormal findings indicated that manufactured insulin had undoubtedly been given to each of these babies".

However, research published between 2017 and 2023, and summarised in a short peer-reviewed paper in April 2026 in the *Journal of Diabetes Science and Technology*, has found that premature babies can have extremely high insulin to C peptide ratios without being given any insulin.

The findings of the paper – by Professor Geoff Chase and Helen Shannon, who have been assisting Letby's CCRC application – offer a far more plausible explanation than poisoning for the high ratios, alongside the clear clinical reasons that both babies had low blood sugars, outlined in great detail in new expert reports (*Eyes passim*).

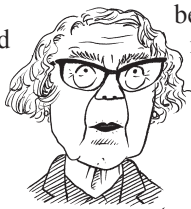
The court and appeal court previously rejected other plausible explanations – but this is post-trial, published and peer-reviewed research that argues such results commonly happen in neonates who

haven't been given insulin. If the data is correct, the jury was wrongly directed, and if the CCRC doesn't act on this it clearly has no intention of fairly reviewing the Letby case.

Thirlwall silence

THE report of the public inquiry into Letby has been delayed again, perhaps because Lady Justice Thirlwall has realised her team was in possession of evidence that should have been passed on to Letby's defence team before her retrial over the attempted murder of Baby K.

The inquiry started gathering evidence shortly after it was established on 19 October 2023. In doing so, it received a copy of an email dated 4 May 2017 from Dr Ravi Jayaram telling his colleagues Letby had called for help with Baby K. He said under oath that she had not asked, and that his instinct led him to check up on her after she had – in his opinion – dislodged a breathing tube (*Eyes passim*). Letby was convicted solely on Jayaram's evidence on 2 July 2024, but the damning



email evidence was not disclosed to Letby's defence until 24 September that year.

Journalist Cleuci de Oliveira has repeatedly written to the Thirlwall media team demanding to know when the inquiry came into possession of the email and, if it was before Letby's conviction, why they did not pass it on to her defence team. "The information contained in the email was so damning as to warrant post-conviction disclosure under Nunn [2014] UKSC 37, as the Crown Prosecution Service dutifully concluded," she wrote. "And according to the CPS's disclosure, this damning piece of evidence, materially casting doubt as it may do on Letby's conviction at retrial, had been obtained by none other than the Thirlwall Inquiry."

The question remains, when did the inquiry receive the email and what action did it take? It currently refuses to answer as the inquiry is indefinitely "ongoing".



This report originally featured in Private Eye issue 1675.

To read parts 1-36 please visit www.private-eye.co.uk/specialreports

DON'T MISS OUT

Subscribe today

PRIVATE EYE

www.subsonline.co.uk

01858 438 850

NOW LISTEN TO THE PODCAST!

PAGE 94

Streaming on private-eye.co.uk and your podcast provider NOW!