

**The Bristol Royal Infirmary Inquiry**  
**Day 2**

**March 17, 1999**

[1] that time, I was, you know, not happy, and that the  
 [2] Moses basket was, you know, placed on the settee.  
 [3] **Q:** The Moses basket was hers, was it?  
 [4] **A:** No, it was not her Moses basket.  
 [5] **Q:** The white baby-grow certainly was not?  
 [6] **A:** Certainly not.  
 [7] **Q:** Did she have baby-grows of her own there?  
 [8] **A:** Yes, and her own Moses basket.  
 [9] **Q:** The Trust had commented that white baby-grows were used  
 [10] when the children's baby-grows were, and I quote, "not  
 [11] to hand". Were baby-grows for Mia available to hand as  
 [12] you recollect it?  
 [13] **A:** From our end, yes, sir. It was just, you know,  
 [14] unfortunate that it was white and Leen hated her in  
 [15] white.  
 [16] **Q:** So it is the colour rather than the fact that it was not  
 [17] hers?  
 [18] **A:** If she had been in a surgical dress as such, it would  
 [19] not have been so hurtful for Leen. She was very upset  
 [20] at that time, because it was white.  
 [21] **Q:** I am sure that you accept that aversion to white is not  
 [22] perhaps a common reaction, understandable as it may be?  
 [23] **A:** No, sir. It was just unfortunate.  
 [24] **Q:** If we can go on to paragraph 20, and please, as we put  
 [25] the image up, scroll over to the next page, the bottom

Page 89

[1] told to go, but I know that I had made it quite plain  
 [2] that we did not want to leave. This would have been  
 [3] around 6 pm".  
 [4] **Q:** You spoke about being stubborn, making it plain you did  
 [5] not want to go. How did you do that?  
 [6] **A:** I said I wanted to go and she said we would upset the  
 [7] ward. By this time my wife really was very, very upset  
 [8] and we really wanted more time. It was all happening so  
 [9] fast. As I say, I mean, we were out on the doorstep at  
 [10] 6 pm and it was at 4.30 we were told she had died, and  
 [11] that includes the visit to Dr Wisheart, the period in  
 [12] the corridor, the period in the box room, was only an  
 [13] hour and a half. We had no time in any way to come to  
 [14] terms with what was happening. Although I initially  
 [15] reeled back in horror, really, at being asked whether  
 [16] I wanted to see Mia, it was really more of a shock of  
 [17] the whole thing all happening so fast, so I needed more  
 [18] time, to come to - it takes years to come to terms with  
 [19] it, but we were not stable at that time, we were in  
 [20] shock and we needed more time.  
 [21] **Q:** Leen was crying?  
 [22] **A:** Leen was crying.  
 [23] **Q:** What about you?  
 [24] **A:** I was getting angry at this point. I was angry because  
 [25] I wanted to stay and I knew that leaving the hospital,

Page 91

[1] of the page. If you would like to take up the reading?  
 [2] **A:** "In any event, Helen insisted that we would disrupt the  
 [3] ward if we stayed and that getting back to our home  
 [4] environment was the best thing that we could do. At  
 [5] this stage I became extremely stubborn. The whole  
 [6] sequence of events that had transpired since we had been  
 [7] told of Mia's death was deeply upsetting. There was  
 [8] firstly the fact that another lady and her young child  
 [9] were present in the room; there was the incident in the  
 [10] corridor; there was being placed in a junk room where we  
 [11] were expected to say goodbye to Mia, and finally, I got  
 [12] the distinct impression that we were being rushed out of  
 [13] the hospital before we were ready to go. I was also  
 [14] concerned about the drive to Swansea. I must stress  
 [15] that all this took place in the box room and Mia was  
 [16] still lying in the Moses basket.  
 [17] "We were persuaded out of the box room and Helen  
 [18] insisted that we go and collect our stuff firstly from  
 [19] ward 5A and then from the hostel. We had not stayed at  
 [20] the hostel but we had actually dumped some of our stuff  
 [21] there. Throughout this time, I was making it quite  
 [22] plain to Helen that we did not want to go. Eventually  
 [23] we found ourselves at the door of the Bristol Royal  
 [24] Infirmary completely distressed and dazed. I cannot  
 [25] remember if we were escorted out or left after being

Page 90

[1] I was not fit to do so. We were not in control; we were  
 [2] in shock and we were exhausted. We did not have time to  
 [3] say goodbye. It was all too quickly.  
 [4] **Q:** Do you think you expressed your anger before you were  
 [5] asked to go?  
 [6] **A:** After.  
 [7] **Q:** The Hospital Trust had commented that it was normal  
 [8] policy for parents to be given time to come to terms  
 [9] with their loss and not hurried in any way and notes  
 [10] that parents did frequently stay an additional night, as  
 [11] you and Leen would have preferred. They say it is not  
 [12] possible to know why that did not happen in your case in  
 [13] the short time available before comments were required,  
 [14] and plainly, they are at liberty to comment further  
 [15] later.  
 [16] If that was normal policy, to what extent, as you  
 [17] saw it, did Helen Strachan appear to be following it?  
 [18] **A:** It was not what occurred to us.  
 [19] **Q:** You say you were persuaded out of the box room and Helen  
 [20] insisted that you go and collect your stuff. What  
 [21] reasons did she give for saying, "Well, really you ought  
 [22] to go home", or you ought to go?  
 [23] **A:** Because we were disturbing the ward, which I agree, we  
 [24] were.  
 [25] **Q:** So that was the crying and the shouting?

Page 92