

PRESS RELEASE

9 November 2021

The inquest into the death of baby Louie Neil Johnston concluded on 6 October 2021. Her Majesty's Coroner for East London, Graeme Irvine, returned a critical narrative conclusion that avoidable delays in delivery caused or contributed to his death.

Louie Neil Johnston died at Queen's Hospital, Romford, on 28th April 2020 as a result of diffuse hypoxic ischaemic encephalopathy, a condition caused by an inadequate supply of oxygen to the brain during his delivery on 17th April 2020.

HM Coroner found that factors which produced the delay that caused or contributed to Louie's death included:

1. Disregard of part of a cardiotocography (CTG) trace that monitors uterine activity, which led to uterine hyperstimulation not being considered as the cause for a drop in the baby's heart rate;
2. A prolonged attempt to deliver using a ventouse cup; and
3. A sequential decision to proceed to a forceps delivery after the ventouse cup delivery failed, instead of an immediate category 1 caesarian section.

Lauren and Lee, Louie's parents, said:

"All we can hope and pray for now is that another family haven't got to live a nightmare on earth like us. It will never go away. We never got a cuddle or heard him cry. We will never get to celebrate Christmas or birthdays. It is cruel and unfair. To have everything ripped away when we put our precious lives in their hands is heartbreaking and that will never heal."

Chanel Dolcy, solicitor for the family said:

"This is a tragic case involving a wholly avoidable death. It is vital that Trusts adopt a position of transparency in inquiries such as these so that lessons are learned and future families do not go through the pain suffered by Louie's parents."

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. Louie's family is represented by Chanel Dolcy of Bhatt Murphy and Max Mills of 2 Harcourt Buildings.
2. For further information please contact Chanel Dolcy at Bhatt Murphy on 020 7033 2020 or c.dolcy@bhattmurphy.co.uk
3. The other interested person represented was Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals NHS Trust.