He found that although the neuroblastoma was non-life threatening, it had caused excessive levels of adrenal hormones, which pushed up the baby’s blood pressure to a damaging level. He concluded: “Opportunities to make the diagnosis were missed throughout her 15-day stay.”

Within hours of her birth, a consultant decided to monitor her blood pressure every four hours to check the significance of a slightly raised initial reading, and a nursing care plan to monitor the blood pressure was drawn up. But this was not carried out. On day four, her “extremely high BP” was recorded but not acted upon. Thereafter, Dr Coulthard said: “She developed puzzling symptoms and signs which led to several otherwise apparently thorough reviews of her case, but nobody measured her BP again until day 12. At that point, her high BP was noted, and the term ‘hypertension’ began to be used, but she was still not treated for it.”

He concluded that in the absence of any other identifiable cause it was “overwhelmingly likely that Lizzie’s ill health was caused by uncontrolled, severe hypertension, and that this caused her brain damage. Her brain damage resulted in a greatly impaired quality of life… and ultimately her death.”

Following the report the hospital apologised for Lizzie’s poor care and the family was promised an independent investigation commissioned by the Care Quality Commission and NHS England. But now NHS England has pulled out and, with the CQC having no power to investigate individual cases, the watchdog has said it will only carry out a “thematic review”, which will be welcomed by the more widespread lessons for the NHS from Lizzie’s case.

Mr and Mrs Dixon are devastated by the news – which Mrs Dixon says again denies them the truth. Only one nurse has been made accountable so far for the errors they say were made during the crucial first 12 hours when Lizzie was still not treated for it.”

The family battles on. The next objective is to get the original narrative verdict quashed and a new inquest ordered, which will investigate all mistakes throughout Lizzie’s short life.

So the family battles on. The next objective is to get the original narrative verdict quashed and a new inquest ordered, which will investigate all the evidence. Without it or an open inquiry, the Dixons will remain convinced there has been a massive cover-up.

**WOODLAND PRIVATISATION**

**Dis-lodged**

Luxury eco-lodge firm Forest Holidays has withdrawn its planning application for 70 deluxe timber cabins amid the trees in Fineshade Woods in Northamptonshire. The plans had attracted public criticism from locals as well as major wildlife charities and government-funded environment schemes (see Eye 1373).

Originally a joint venture between the Forestry Commission and the Camping and Caravanning Club, Forest Holidays is now largely owned by a £25m RBS loan secured against newly issued leases on resident house managers’ flats at retirement complexes. But this is too new to be being questioned by Sir Peter Bottomley, the MP who has been championing the cause of retired senior Commons.

FirstPort may turn out to be LastResort for the troubled management company.