

# Hidden cost of midwife scandal

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HEALTH EDITOR

A HEALTH watchdog spent £240,000 on lawyers in a bid to keep the truth from a bereaved father, documents show.

James Titcombe exposed a baby deaths scandal at Morecambe Bay and an en-

suing cover-up by NHS authorities, which led to an inspection overhaul.

His son, Joshua, died in 2008 when midwives Holly Parkinson and Lindsey Biggs missed chances to spot and treat an infection.

Midwives colluded to hide failings that caused the avoidable deaths of at least 11

babies and one mother, an investigation found.

Yet it was not until 2015 that action was taken - by which time the Nursing and Midwifery Council had spent £240,000 on legal advice.

The NMC said it "regretted and had apologised for" the time it had taken cases to be investigated.

Titcombe 1.2.17