



## HER MAJESTY'S CORONER

DISTRICT OF GREATER BELFAST

John L Leckey LL.M.  
H.M. Coroner  
Coroner's Office  
Courthouse  
Old Town Hall Building  
80 Victoria Street  
Belfast BT1 3GL  
Northern Ireland

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Fax: [REDACTED]

E-mail: jleckey.rcj [REDACTED]

Dr E Sumner MA, BM, BCh, FRCA  
Consultant Paediatric Anaesthetist



3<sup>rd</sup> March 2003

*John L Leckey*

### LUCY CRAWFORD, DECEASED

I am writing to ask your assistance in connection with the death of another child where hyponatraemia is a material factor. Dr Peter Crean, who gave evidence at the Raychel Ferguson inquest, has looked at the medical records for me and is of the opinion that the issues regarding Lucy are not as clear cut as those concerning Raychel. However, he has concerns about the management of Lucy whilst a patient at the Erne Hospital.

I am enclosing a copy of the post-mortem report and a copy of a letter I have received from Mr Stanley Millar who is the Chief Officer of the Western Health & Social Services Council. I would suggest you contact him direct for access to medical records. I am arranging to obtain statements from those concerned with the care and treatment of Lucy both in the Erne Hospital and the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children and I will forward copies to you once these are available.

The death was reported to my office on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2000. The office note gives a history of gastroenteritis, dehydration and brain swelling. On behalf of my office Dr Michael Curtis who is Assistant State Pathologist spoke to Dr Hanrahan, the Consultant in charge at the Children's Hospital. Dr Curtis was satisfied that a post-mortem examination was unnecessary and the office note indicates that a Death Certificate was to be issued giving the cause of death as Gastroenteritis. Apparently a post-mortem examination was then carried out by Dr Denis O'Hara who is a Consultant Paediatric Pathologist at the Royal Victoria Hospital. This was not a

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coroner's post-mortem. In retrospect Dr O'Hara should have reported his findings to me and I would then have made this a coroner's case. If it had not been for the letter from Mr Millar I would have been unaware of the fact that a post-mortem examination had been carried out. For your information I am enclosing a copy of the letter I received from Mr Millar and the post-mortem report of Dr O'Hara.

I am assuming that you are willing to undertake this task. Should you decide that you have had enough of inquests in Belfast please let me know. However I sincerely hope that you will feel able to assist me once again.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely



**J L LECKEY**  
**HM CORONER FOR GREATER BELFAST**

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