

Dr John Alexander  


30 November 1995

Dear Dr Alexander

**RE: ADAM STRAIN, DECEASED**

The above-named four year old child died following kidney transplant surgery in the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children on 28th November 1995. A post-mortem examination was carried out by Dr Alison Armour of the State Pathologist's Department and she has informed me that she found gross cerebral oedema - the worst she had ever seen in an autopsy on a child.

At the present time the information I have is somewhat sketchy but it would appear that the surgery itself was uneventful with nothing to cause concern to either the surgical team or the anaesthetist. I understand that the child was healthy and considered to be an ideal candidate for transplant surgery. No complications were anticipated. The child had undergone surgery on a number of previous occasions and therefore one could assume that if any complications had been encountered on one of those occasions they would have been noted.

The anaesthetist involved was Dr Bob Taylor and the Surgeons were Mr Stephen Browne and Mr Patrick Keane (of BCH).

I should be grateful if you would let me have an anaesthetic report for use at the Inquest and in accordance with my normal practice I would wish you to attend to give evidence. All the medical notes will be made available to you, for these you should contact Dr George Murnaghan, Senior Administrator, King Edward Block, Royal Victoria Hospital, Grosvenor Road, Belfast, BT12 6BA - telephone 263084. As yet I do not have any statements from the

clinicians but when these come to hand I will let you have copies. If I can be of any further assistance please let me know.

I am most grateful that you agreed to undertake another difficult case on my behalf.

Yours sincerely

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