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30th November 2001

**RE: RACHEL FERGUSON, DECEASED
AUTOPSY NUMBER: NPPM 61/2001**

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your postmortem report. The report of Dr Clodagh Loughrey was not enclosed but your secretary kindly faxed me a copy. I note that Dr Loughrey had not signed this (the space for the signature is blank) and I should be grateful if you would ask her to forward to me a signed copy of her report.

You may be aware that in 1996 I held an Inquest into the death of a 4 year old child called Adam Strain. Bob Taylor was involved in his treatment at that time and I am sure he remembers the Inquest very well indeed. For your information I am enclosing 2 copies of the Postmortem Report and 2 copies of an independent report I commissioned from Dr Edward Sumner of Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children. I should be grateful if you could pass one set of the papers to Dr Loughrey. The reason I am sending these to you is to enable me to discover whether there are any parallels between the death of Adam Strain and Rachel Ferguson. I would be very willing to meet with you, Dr Loughrey and Bob Taylor to discuss this. Would you be willing to mention this suggestion to them?

A further point I would wish you to reflect on is the cause of death you give in your report - Cerebral Odema. You do not specify an underlying cause for the Cerebral Odema yet in the commentary section of your report you mention 3 factors that would have led to the onset of the Cerebral Oedema. Because of that I am writing to enquire

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if these 3 factors should be referred to at 1(b). I assume the "fluids" issue is the most important. You will note the formulation of the cause of death given by of Dr Armour in relation to Adam Strain. Would a similar formulation of the cause of death in relation to Rachel Ferguson (ignoring the reference to the renal transplant operation) be appropriate?

I believe it would be advantageous if you felt able to give an underlying cause for the Cerebral Oedema. I am sure it is a question you would be asked at the Inquest. I will not send out copies of your report to those concerned until you have had an opportunity of considering this letter and until I have in my possession a signed copy of the report of Dr Loughrey.

Would you consider it advisable for me to obtain an independent report from Dr Sumner or someone similar?

With kind regards

Yours sincerely