

RACHEL FERGUSON, DECEASED

22nd March 2002

Dr Miriam McCarthy from the Office of the Chief Medical Officer telephoned me this morning. I said I was enquiring what stage the working party who were looking at post-operative management of children had reached. I was advised that the working party had reported and a poster and covering letter was now being drafted with a view to it being sent out to all Health Trusts. Dr McCarthy would send me a copy. I explained that the Rachel Ferguson inquest was likely to attract media interest and I would anticipate that the family would be asking me if I propose to take any action. I could refer to the poster and letter but it might be better if Dr McCarthy was able to come along to the inquest and give evidence as to what was going to happen. Also, I suggested that consideration might be given to making the poster available to the press or preparing a press statement. It was arranged that I would speak again to Dr McCarthy after I had received the poster and covering letter. In the meanwhile she would speak to Dr Campbell.