

WESTERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COUNCIL

**Notes of a meeting held in The Boardroom
Altnagelvin Trust Headquarters First Floor
Altnagelvin Area Hospital on
Wednesday 19 February 2003 at 6.00pm**

Present:	Mrs S Burnside	Chief Executive	Altnagelvin Trust
	Miss I Duddy	Director of Nursing	Altnagelvin Trust
	Dr G Nesbitt	Medical Director	Altnagelvin Trust
	Mr R Rogan	Chairman	WH&SSC
	M E Friel	Member	WH&SSC
	Mrs M Hamilton	Member	WH&SSC
	Mr B Page	Member	WH&SSC
	Mrs H Quigley	Member	WH&SSC
	Mrs F Robson	Member	WH&SSC
	Mr S Millar	Chief Officer	WH&SSC

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The meeting was arranged at the request of Western Health and Social Services Council to learn of the Altnagelvin Trust perspective on the death of Raychel Ferguson.

The Trust provided a copy of a Press Statement.

Mrs Burnside explained the outcome of the Coroner's Inquest which did not apportion blame to the Trust.

The Trust in the normal course of events made contact with the Fergusons to talk through the events and offer a message of sympathy and regret.

Media reporting of the tragedy and the Coroner's Inquest has led the public to a notion of negligence.

The cause of death was Hyponatraemia and swelling of the brain.

The expert medical witness at the Coroner's Inquest praised the Trust for the manner in which it had shared the outcome of an Internal Review with other hospitals across the UK including Letterkenny.

Dr Nesbitt through a PowerPoint presentation explained the circumstances of the tragedy and the reason why Raychel died. (Dr Nesbitt undertook to provide a copy of his presentation to the members present).

Mrs Burnside said in hindsight the Trust accepted the death could have been avoidable.

The issue related to an infusion. In Accident and Emergency Raychel was given a Hartmans Solution intravenously which was later replaced by a No.18 Solution.

Members had an opportunity to have clarification on aspects of the presentation.

The Trust explained they received legal advice not to talk to the media.

There are 8 media sources all competing for stories about Altnagelvin.

The members felt it was a mistake for the Trust not to share the facts with the media.

The family intend to pursue litigation.



The Chairman thanked the Trust representatives for the meeting.

The meeting ended at 7.20pm