

roreilly

From: Ruth O'Reilly [redacted]
Sent: 01 October 2004 17:28
To: informationcentre@[redacted]
Subject: UTV Insight - further enquiry for Graham Wilson

Dear Graham,

I would like to add to my earlier enquiry (below) so you can check this one with it at the same time.

THE BACKGROUND:

In Mr Leckey's opening statement at the Lucy Crawford inquest earlier this year, he outlined the why a decision was taken not to hold an inquest at the time of Lucy's death (April 2000). He explained that at that time his office had received a telephone call from Dr Donncha Hanrahan, consultant in paediatric neurology at the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children, who gave Lucy's clinical history as: gastroenteritis, dehydration and brain swelling. Following a consultation between Dr Hanrahan and the State Pathologist's Department, Mr Leckey's office was advised that it would be appropriate for a death certificate to be issued listing gastroenteritis as cause of death.

THE QUERY:

We were unable to attend Lucy Crawford's inquest ourselves and, so, want to check whether Dr Hanrahan's handling of Lucy's case AFTER her death was raised in either written deposition or in oral testimony. If so, what was his explanation for what happened here?

It is important that we explore this avenue fully because we do not want to be unfair to anyone concerned. We would appreciate any guidance which would come on this subject

Many thanks again for your help so far.

Yours,

Ruth O'Reilly
Producer, Insight

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-----Original Message-----

From: Ruth O'Reilly [mailto:roreilly@[redacted]]
Sent: 30 September 2004 15:33
To: iformationcentre@[redacted]
Subject: RE: FAO Jill Heron

Dear Graham,

Many thanks for your prompt enquiry. I would greatly appreciate it if you would chase this up with Mr Leckey. It may help if I provide you with more information. This other case is referred to in the papers of the Raychel Ferguson inquest (Raychel died in June 2001 and an inquest was held into her death by Mr Leckey) Dr Geoff Nesbitt, medical director at Altnagelvin Hospital, wrote to the Chief Medical Officer on May 1 2002, re hyponatraemia in children receiving IV fluids, and stated: "I am interested to know if any ... guidance was issued by the Department of Health following the death of a child at the Belfast Hospital for Sick Children which occurred some five years ago and whose death the coroner investigated. I was unaware

of this case and am somewhat at a loss to explain why."

Ruth O'Reilly
Producer, Insight

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-----Original Message-----

From: informationcentre@courtsni.gov.uk [mailto:informationcentre@courtsni.gov.uk]
Sent: 30 September 2004 13:22
To: roreilly@courtsni.gov.uk
Subject: RE: FAO Jill Heron

Hi Ruth,

I acknowledge receipt of your query. Unfortunately the Coroner Mr Leckey is on leave until Monday 4/10/04. Having spoken to the coroner office admin staff their records cannot confirm or deny that a fourth inquest had taken place where hyponatraemia was the cause of death. They have advised me that it would be better talking to the coroner directly on his return. I am sorry if this causes any delay.

Regards,
Graham Wilson
Information Service
NICtS

-----Original Message-----

From: Ruth O'Reilly [mailto:roreilly@courtsni.gov.uk]
Sent: 30 September 2004 12:59
To: informationcentre@courtsni.gov.uk
Subject: FAO Jill Heron

Hi Jill,

Many thanks for your help so far. With any luck this should be the final question about hyponatraemia from me or Trevor. A doctor at Altnagelvin hospital has claimed that a child died of hyponatraemia in 1997 in the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children and that the Belfast coroner held an inquest into that death (Up to now we understood that the Belfast coroner had only investigated three hyponatraemia deaths: the death of Adam Strain at the Royal in 1995; Raychel Ferguson, who died in 2001 and Lucy Crawford who died in 2000).

Can you confirm that for me?

Ruth O'Reilly
Producer, Insight

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