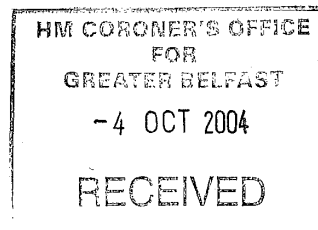


CM/SM 2003
26th Sept. 2004

Mr J. Leckey
Old TOWNHALL BUILDING
VICTORIA STREET
BELFAST.



Dear Mr Leckey,
ISSUES REGARDING THE INQUEST OF CONOR MITCHELL.

There are a few queries we have regarding your summing up by Conor's inquest.

Firstly we cannot understand why there was no mention of imputation of any kind regarding Craigaven Area Hospital's treatment on May 8th 2003 which resulted in Conor's death.

You mentioned all the salient points; that Conor was refused admission to a paediatric ward, that it was 'significant' that Mr Kerr noticed but did not record or feel it important that Conor suffered an atypical seizure in A+E.

You also mentioned during the inquest the possibility that Ruth Bullock misdiagnosed the seizure Conor was suffering, as 'spasms'. This was certainly the case. She also mentioned in her written statement & later in her deposition in court that she did see a rash. There

is a contradiction then when you said ²/₃ that no one saw a seizure on a rash, as Mr Ken saw a seizure & Ruth Bullas saw seizures (although she insisted on calling them 'spasms') and the rash. Does this mean that despite these observations To and I were not taken seriously & that the seizures & blotchy rash were a figment of our imagination? Doctor Sumner agrees that a patient & family should be treated as a unit & that a parent knows her child best. So why when we were ignored was this not mentioned in your Summary up as criticism of the nursing care resulting in Connor's death?

Dr Hicks & Dr Sumner both agreed that Connor had been having seizures during the afternoon which had been undiagnosed & therefore untreated; This surely shows the substandard care afforded to (and) when for 5 hours no doctor came to alleviate his suffering, let alone a consultant.

The general feeling ~~is~~, not just by our family but the media also, was that C.A.H. was exonerated from any responsibility despite the obvious onset of neglect & error resulting in his death.

I cannot imagine that if you were in our position you would be satisfied that no mention of substandard care had been apportioned to the hospital when it is patently obvious to all

that our pleas for medical help for our
beloved Canon were ignored, resulting in his¹⁹⁶⁷
death.

Your final comment was that Canon's fluid
management was 'acceptable'. I wonder whose
statement it was brought you to that conclusion;
certainly not Dr Hicks or Dr Sumner's & I'm sure
since receiving his letters you now realise
that Canon's ventilation rate was decided
without calculation & was unnecessary high.
It seemed to be a very low key issue during
the inquest; perhaps the fact that Canon had
cerebral palsy was made known as an issue
than his actual care & treatment which
should have been particularly precise &
accurate.

Canon had a disability but after 15 years
of disciplined, intensive, structured therapies
he was overcoming this frustrating handicap.
He was a boisterous, noisy, strong, healthy &
determined young man who should not have
died. All of us including Canon were delighted
about his physical progress & development
& the foreseeable possibility of independence.

If Canon's treatment cannot be termed
substandard then may God help all of
us when we need hospital care, particularly
those of us with any kind of disability.

I hope for a reply to this letter and
an explanation & answers to the
questions asked.

Yours Sincerely,

Judy Mitchell.