

TO MR JOHN LECKEY
FROM JOANNA MITCHELL

23RD MARCH 2004

DR MURDOCK STATED IN POINT 3 OF HIS STATEMENT THAT "NO MENTION WAS MADE BY NURSING STAFF OR FAMILY OF CONCERNS REGARDING SPASMS OCCURRING". APART FROM THE FACT THAT MYSELF AND MY MOTHER WERE NOT ONLY CONCERNED BUT INDEED FRUSTRATED ALMOST TO THE POINT OF DESPERATION, DR SUMNER'S REPORT STATES

"AT 3PM, THE NURSES NOTED THAT DR TOTTEN WAS INFORMED THAT CONOR WAS SUFFERING FROM SPASMS AND ALSO THAT DR TOTTEN HAD BEEN INFORMED ABOUT THE NON-FUNCTIONING INTRAVENOUS LINE AT 2, 2.30 AND 2.45.

DO YOU NOT FEEL THAT DR TOTTEN'S STATEMENT WOULD ALSO BE VERY IMPORTANT REGARDING THESE "SPASMS" AND ALSO REGARDING THE FACT THAT I HAD BEEN TRYING TO GET A DOCTOR ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS REGARDING THE NON FUNCTIONING INTRAVENOUS LINE. IN FACT MY WORDS TO A NURSE AT THE NURSING STATION WERE "IF MY SON IS DEHYDRATED, HOW IS HE GOING TO BECOME REHYDRATED WHEN HE DOESN'T EVEN HAVE A DRIP GOING?", TO WHICH THE MALE NURSE TOTALLY AGREED. CONOR'S CANNULA WAS NOT IN FACT REPLACED UNTIL 4.10PM.

IN FACT, EVERY TIME CONOR HAD A SEIZURE, AND THIS BLOTCHY RASH APPEARED, I RAN OUT INTO THE CORRIDOR TO TRY AND GET SOME HELP.

DR MURDOCK FINALLY STATES IN HIS STATEMENT THAT CONOR HAD 2 SEIZURES LASTING ONLY SECONDS. THESE SEIZURES WERE OF VERY SIMILAR APPEARANCE BUT MORE INTENSE AND OF LONGER DURATION THAN EARLIER ONES AND MOST CERTAINLY DID NOT LAST ONLY SECONDS.

IN FACT IT TOOK THE PAEDIATRIC REGISTRAR WHO CAME TO SEE CONOR VERY VERY LATE ON IN THE DAY TO POINT OUT TO DR MURDOCK THAT "THIS BOY IS IN SEIZURE". DR MURDOCK HIMSELF SEEMED VERY SURPRISED AT THIS POINT THAT I HAD BEEN TRYING TO GET ACROSS ALL AFTERNOON. THIS INDEED WOULD APPEAR VERY WORRYING THAT A REGISTRAR IN A HOSPITAL CANNOT DIAGNOSE SOMEBODY HAVING GRANDMAL EPILEPTIC SEIZURES.

DR MURDOCK STATES IN POINT 4 OF HIS STATEMENT THAT WHEN WE REQUESTED THAT CONOR BE TRANSFERRED TO THE ROYAL VICTORIA HOSPITAL BECAUSE HE WASN'T IMPROVING AND BECAUSE OF OUR LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN THE TREATMENT THAT HE WAS RECEIVING, HE STATES HE CONTACTED DR MCENEANEY (THE MEDICAL CONSULTANT ON CALL), EXPLAINING THE SITUATION AND THAT DR MCENEANEY STATED THAT HE WAS HAPPY WITH CONOR'S CURRENT MANAGEMENT AND HE DID NOT FEEL

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ANY CHANGE IN HIS TREATMENT PLAN WAS REQUIRED OR ANY TRANSFER TO THE ROYAL VICTORIA HOSPITAL NECESSARY.

DR MCNEANEY DOES NOT MENTION THIS CONVERSATION AT ALL IN HIS STATEMENT AND DIDN'T ARRIVE TO SEE CONOR UNTIL AFTER DOCTOR SMITH ARRIVED TO SEE CONOR, WHEN HE ALREADY STOPPED BREATHING AND GONE BLUE.

I FEEL THESE HOURS IN THE AFTERNOON WHEN WE HAD NO HELP FROM ANY DOCTOR WERE CRUCIAL TO HELP CONOR AND THE POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT CONOR COULD STILL BE ALIVE TODAY IF ONLY WE HAD BEEN LISTENED TO.

Tanna Mitchell