

3rd March 2004

Mr Peter Walby
Associate Medical Director
Litigation Management Office
4th Floor, Bostock House
Royal Victoria Hospital
Grosvenor Road
BELFAST
BT12 6BA

Dear Mr Walby

CONOR MITCHELL - DECEASED

Please find enclosed copy of correspondence received from Joanna Mitchell for your information.

Yours sincerely

Elaine Taylor
Coroner's Office

Enc

JOHN F. McEVOY & CO.
SOLICITORS

B. Liam Shannon, B.C.L., LL.B.
Felim F. Rafferty, B.A. (Law)

8 Church Place, Lurgan, BT66 6EY. Tel: [REDACTED]

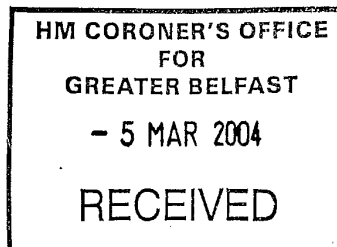
Fax: [REDACTED]

Your Ref:

Our Ref: BLS/DM

3rd March 2004

Mr John L Leckey LL.M.
H. M. Coroner
Coroner's Office
Courthouse
Old Town Hall Building
80 Victoria Street
BELFAST
BT1 3GL



Dear Sir

RE: CONOR MITCHELL (DECEASED)

We refer to your letter of 24th February 2004 and acknowledge receipt of contents therewith.

We had a phone call from your office this afternoon informing us this inquest is now put off until May due to unavailability of witness. We shall return to you about suitability of dates. We enclose letters from Joanna Mitchell and Judy Mitchell for your attention.

Yours faithfully,

John F. McEvoy & Co.

E-MAIL: [johnfmcevoy@\[REDACTED\]](mailto:johnfmcevoy@[REDACTED])

This firm is a member of the Law Society's Home Charter Scheme

FOR THE ATTENTION OF MR JOHN LECKEY FROM JUDY MITCHELL

2ND MARCH 2004

DEAR MR LECKEY

AFTER READING THE COPIES OF STATEMENTS FROM CRAIGAVON AREA HOSPITAL, WHICH WE RECEIVED FROM OUR SOLICITOR, JO AND I NOTICED REMARKS IN SEVERAL OF THEM ABOUT WHICH WE ARE NOT SATISFIED. PERHAPS WE COULD COME AND DISCUSS THESE WITH YOU WHEN WE ARE IN RECEIPT OF THE REST OF THE STATEMENTS.

WE ARE ALSO WONDERING WHY THE PHILLIPINO NURSE CALLED RUTH WAS NOT CALLED AS A WITNESS. WE THOUGHT HER INPUT WOULD BE CRUCIAL AS SHE WAS THE PERSON WHO WAS SENT IN TO SEE CONOR THROUGHOUT THE DAY, EVEN THOUGH IT WAS A DOCTOR THAT WE CALLED FOR. SHE WAS THE PERSON WHO INSISTED CONOR WAS OK AND WAS DEFINITELY NOT HAVING SEIZURES, JUST SPASMS.

ALSO WE NOTE THE MALE NURSE HAS NOT BEEN CALLED. HE CAME INTO THE ROOM AND MADE A DEFINITE STATEMENT TO ALL OF US (NOT JUST A REMARK), THAT EACH TIME WE HAD CALLED FOR A DOCTOR (OF WHICH THERE WERE MANY), HE HAD REQUESTED THIS, JO AND I SAID AT THE TIME THAT HE OBVIOUSLY WISHED HIS STATEMENT TO BE REMEMBERED.

A YOUNG PAEDIATRIC REGISTRAR CAME TO US SHORTLY BEFORE CONOR STOPPED BREATHING AND SAID "THIS BOY IS IN SEIZURE". SHE THEN WENT AWAY. WE WONDERED AS SOMEONE HAD FINALLY ADMITTED THAT WHAT WAS HAPPENING WAS REPEATED SEIZURES, WHY INSTEAD OF DISAPPEARING, SHE DID NOT IMMEDIATELY GIVE CONOR SOMETHING FOR THE SEIZURES. DO YOU THINK HE PRESENCE WOULD NOT BE OF BENEFIT?

YOURS SINCERELY

JUDY MITCHELL

FOR THE ATTENTION OF MR JOHN. LECKEY FROM JOANNA MITCHELL

26TH FEBRUARY 2004

AFTER READING DR E. HICK'S REPORT, THERE ARE ONE OR TWO REMARKS I WISH TO CORRECT.

PAGE 3, PARAGRAPH 4.

DR HICKS STATES THAT CONOR HAD 'CEREBRAL PALSY, EPILEPSY AND LEARNING DIFFICULTIES'. THE FIRST TWO POINTS ARE CORRECT BUT THE THIRD POINT IS INCORRECT. CONOR DID NOT HAVE ANY LEARNING DISABILITY OR DIFFICULTIES. HE WAS ALWAYS EXCEPTIONALLY BRIGHT AND MENTALLY ALERT. UNFORTUNATELY, MANY CHILDREN WITH SEVERE PHYSICAL PROBLEMS ARE AUTOMATICALLY PUT INTO THIS CATEGORY AS A MATTER OF COURSE.

CONOR HAD NO COGNITIVE PROBLEMS AND HAD EXCEPTIONAL LEARNING SKILLS DESPITE HIS PHYSICAL RESTRICTIONS. CONOR WAS A LITERARY PERSON WHO WROTE STORIES AND READ AVIDLY. HE ALSO PASSED HIS 11+ EXAM AGED TEN YEARS AND ACHIEVED AN 'A' PASS. CONOR WAS INTERESTED IN SCIENCE, MATHS, SCIENCE, MATHS, MUSIC AND HISTORY OF ART, THE ENVIRONMENT AND HUMANITARIAN ISSUES. HE WAS ALSO OPTIMISTIC ABOUT EVENTUALLY BEING INVOLVED IN HIS FAVOURITE SPORTS, I.E. CAR RACING, HORSES AND WINTER SPORTS. CONOR'S WORK WAS ACHIEVED WITH A HOME TUTOR AND FACILITATED COMMUNICATION.

THIS, PERHAPS, SEEMS A TRIVIAL POINT TO BRING UP, BUT TO BE POSTHUMOUSLY CATEGORISED AS HAVING LEARNING DISABILITIES IS SOMETHING WE WISH TO PUT IN ORDER FOR CONOR'S SAKE AS HE IS NO LONGER HERE FOR HIS NUMEROUS TALENTS TO BE SELF EVIDENT. I WOULD LIKE TO ADD THAT CONOR ALSO HAD A MOST ENVIABLE GIFT OF 'PERFECT PITCH'....A MUSICAL TALENT NOT VERY FREELY GIVEN.

PAGE 3, PARAGRAPH 2

IT IS MENTIONED, FOR SOME UNKNOWN REASON THAT CONOR AND I LIVED WITH MY PARTNER. THIS IS NOT THE CASE. CONOR AND I HAVE ALWAYS LIVED IN OUR FLAT ATTACHED TO OUR FAMILY HOME. MY PARTNER HAS HIS OWN HOME ELSEWHERE.