

**BACKGROUND PAPER OF DR J KEELING
CLAIRE ROBERTS**

RE: CLARIFICATION

1. We have received your 'Background Paper' dated 1st September 2010 and seek your further opinion on the issue of the coding of deaths in hospital:

Q3. Between 1995 to date, what is/was the system of procedures and practices in the UK for the accurate coding of deaths in hospitals, including how accuracy of coding is checked and verified, how accurate are death codes in general, whose has responsibility for the coding of a death, on what basis and/or using what documents is the decision on coding of a death made, and how would inaccurate coding affect statistical analysis (e.g. by the National Confidential Enquiry into Perioperative deaths) of deaths in hospitals

Please incorporate your views on this question into your Report.

2. In addition we attach a background paper by Dr. Bridget Dolan (assistant deputy Coroner, Barrister-at-Law and Psychologist), which can be considered as a companion piece to your Report. That Report is concerned with the legal aspect of the reporting of deaths, rather than the clinical side. We should be grateful you would incorporate into your Report your comments on the issues she discusses from the perspective of your own discipline and area of expertise.
3. We would ask that, if possible, you respond to these requests by **Friday 17th June 2011**. The Inquiry would like to release your Report to the Interested Parties and publish it on the Inquiry website as soon as possible.
4. The Inquiry has already released (or will release shortly) Background Papers on:
 - (a) Education, training and continuing professional development in respect of doctors and nurses in Northern Ireland, the rest of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland
 - (b) Systems of procedures and practices in the United Kingdom for reporting and disseminating information on the outcomes or lessons to be learned from Coroner's Inquests on deaths in hospital (involving Hospitals, Trusts, Area Boards, Department of Health and Chief Medical Officer)
 - (c) Comparison of statistics of child hospital deaths in Northern Ireland from hyponatraemia or fluid overload with such deaths in the rest of the United Kingdom and Western Europe

- (d) Quality of Northern Ireland statistical information on child hospital deaths from hyponatraemia or fluid overload as compared with those for the rest of the United Kingdom and Western Europe.