

The Inquiry into Hyponatraemia-related Deaths

Chairman: Mr John O'Hara QC

Ms Catherine Rodgers
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Your Ref: LIT 477/08/B5/CR

Our Ref: AD-0599-13

Date: 11th June 2013

Dear Ms Rodgers,

Thank you for your inquiry about the Departmental segment of the public hearings.

The Chairman is considering the extent of the issues which will need to be addressed in that segment in light of the evidence which has been heard to date and which will be heard in the context of the aftermath of the death of Lucy Crawford. For instance Professor Gabriel Scally has given a report which he will develop in his oral evidence in the last week in June about the relationship between the trusts, boards and the Department which is directly relevant to the evidence which will need to be provided by departmental witnesses. Another example is the evidence given in September last by William McKee to the effect that in the 1990s the Department had not made the trust boards responsible for the quality or standard of care provided to patients.

The Chairman intends to circulate a paper for the consideration of the various interested parties (including the Department) by the end of next week in which he will bring together what appear to him to be the outstanding departmental issues which will be developed in the autumn. When this has been considered and responded to by the parties he will finalise his approach and I will be better able to respond to your letter.

Yours sincerely,



Anne Dillon
Solicitor to the Inquiry

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