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Ms Anne Dillon
Inquiry into Hyponatraemia-Related Deaths
Arthur House
41 Arthur Street
BELFAST BT1 4GB

Your Ref: AD-0679-13

Our Ref: LIT 477/2008/B5/CR

Date: 6 November 2013

Dear Ms Dillon

SERIOUS ADVERSE INCIDENT/ADVERSE INCIDENTS

I refer to the above matter and in particular your correspondence of 21 October 2013 and all related correspondence.

I am instructed by the Department that it has not been possible to provide information on Adverse Incidents (AIs) prior to 2008 because of issues accessing legacy HSS Trust data. The Department have however provided a table outlining the number of AIs reported by Trusts from 2008/2009 to 2012/2013. (Annex A).

You will note that there appears to be some discrepancies in the SAI data held by the Enquiry for the 2010, 2011 and 2012 years. I am instructed that the position regarding the data has been clarified with the HSCB who have advised that organisations may report SAIs based on limited information and the situation may change as more information is gathered which may result in an incident no longer meeting the SAI criteria. In these cases the SAI will be deescalated and no further SAI investigation will be required.

I am instructed that there may also be incidents reported as SAIs were, after initial investigation, more information may emerge that determines the need for a specialist investigation. This type of investigation includes:-

- Case Management Reviews
- Serious Case Reviews
- Independent/Public Inquiries

I also attach herewith a table (Annex B) which gives up-to-date position on SAI data from 2004 to 30 September 2013.

I trust this is of some assistance and should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

pp Rena Grazier

CATHERINE RODGERS
for The Solicitor
Direct Dial: 90542433

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

DF1/13/725748/CR/LH

Annex A

Total Adverse Incidents Opened by Year (1st April - 31st March)

Year	Belfast	Northern	South Eastern	Southern	Western	Ambulance	RQIA
2008/09	23,160	11,653	11,256	8,180	9,089	740	N/A
2009/10	24,324	11,164	13,239	8,759	9,479	1,361	N/A
2010/11	25,168	10,694	13,525	10,122	8,123	2,265	8,976
2011/12	22,734	10,771	15,645	11,355	8,521	2,274	11,729
2012/13	23,748	11,200	16,413	10,922	9,072	2,820	14,904

Notes:

1. Northern Ireland Ambulance Service Trust data includes missed meal breaks. This accounts as follows: - 7 in 2008/09; 174 in 2009/10; 367 in 2010/11; 579 in 2011/12; and 437 in 2012/13.

2. RQIA data for 2010/11 is incomplete as reporting and recording of events for adult services commenced using a phased approach. 2010/11 also excludes events for Children's services as these were not recorded on the system in 2010/11.

Annex B

SAI Data per year (1 January – 31 December)

	Figures held at DHSSPS	Inquiry Figure	HSCB figure	HSCB Comments
2004	21	21	--	
2005	217	217	--	
2006	252	252	--	
2007	324	324	--	
2008	398	398	--	
2009	287	287	--	
2010	75*	227 (153 since Board took over)	146 since Board took over -	Total notifications – 153 6 de-escalated. 1 transferred to other area
2011		286	253	Total notifications – 287 33 de-escalated. 1 transferred to another area.
2012		323	299	Total notifications – 324 24 de-escalated 1 transferred to another area
2013**	---		268	Total notifications – 287 15 de-escalated. 4 transferred to another area.

* 1-4-2010 – 30-4-2010. Responsibility for SAI reporting transferred to HSCB/PHA on 1 May 2010.

**(up to 30-9-13)