

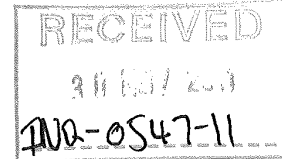
2 Franklin Street, Belfast, BT2 8DQ
DX 2842 NR Belfast 3

Your Ref:
CM-0054-11

Our Ref:
HYP S71/01

Date:
30.11.11

Ms Caroline Martin
Solicitor to the Inquiry
Arthur House
41 Arthur Street
Belfast
BT1 4GB



Dear Madam,

RE: INQUIRY INTO HYPONATRAEMIA RELATED DEATHS

I refer to the above and your letter of 25th October 2011. I am instructed that the Trust have made considerable efforts to locate the policy to which you refer. However, given the lapse of time since 2003 and significant reorganisation within the Trust it has been unable to locate this document.

Yours faithfully



Joanna Bolton
Solicitor Consultant

Providing Support to Health and Social Care



The Inquiry into Hyponatraemia-related Deaths

Chairman: Mr John O'Hara QC

Ms Wendy Beggs
Directorate of Legal Services
2 Franklin Street
BELFAST
BT2 8DQ

Your Ref: NSCS071/1

Our Ref: CM-0054-11

Date: 25th October 2011

Dear Ms Beggs,

Re Investigation into the death of Conor Mitchell

Your Client: Southern Health & Social Care Trust

You are aware that the Inquiry is examining the circumstances leading to the death of Conor Mitchell on the 12th May 2003. One particular issue which the Inquiry is investigating concerns the decision to admit Conor on to an adult ward and the implications of that decision.

Conor was brought to the Craigavon Area Hospital on the 8th May 2003. At that time he was aged 15, but it has been said that he had the physical appearance of an 8 year old boy. His weight was recorded as being 22 kg [088-002-020].

The Inquiry is aware from a deposition provided to the Coroner by Dr. Suzie Budd, that after examining Conor in the Accident and Emergency Department she referred him to the Paediatric Team for further management [087-029-133]. This is also recorded on the Accident and Emergency Department's record [088-002-020]. However, Dr. Budd was advised that Conor's age meant that he was unsuitable for admission to the Paediatric Ward. He was instead admitted into the Medical Admissions Unit.

The Inquiry is also aware of the evidence given by Sister Irene Brennan at the hearing of NMC's Conduct and Competence Committee on the 11th July 2011 which examined the conduct of Staff Nurse Ruth Bullas. She said that at that time it was Hospital policy to admit patients over the age of 14 on to the Medical Admissions Unit (page 74 of the NMC Transcript).

At this stage we would be grateful if you would immediately forward to this office a copy of the hospital admissions policy which governed this area in May 2003, and which determined that Conor should be treated on the Medical Admissions Unit.

Secretary: Bernie Conlon

Arthur House, 41 Arthur Street, Belfast, BT1 4GB

Email: inquiry@ihrdni.org Website: www.ihrdni.org Tel: 028 9044 6340 Fax: 028 9044 6341

We would also like to receive any guidance which may have been issued to nursing and medical staff with regard to the factors which were to be taken into account when making a decision on the appropriate ward for a patient.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'C. Martin', written in black ink.

Caroline Martin
Solicitor to the Inquiry