

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: NSCB04/1
NSCW50/1
NSCS071/1

Our Ref: AD-0281-12

Date: 25th January 2012

Dear Ms Beggs,

Re: The Case of Ruth Bullas

The Inquiry has been made aware that the Nursing and Midwifery Council convened a Conduct and Competence Committee in July 2011 to examine the treatment provided to Conor Mitchell in Craigavon Area Hospital by Staff Nurse Bullas.

You will be aware that the Committee found that Nurse Bullas' fitness to practise was impaired by reason of her misconduct and that it was found appropriate to apply a striking off order.

We have noted from documentation which the NMC has disclosed to the Inquiry (copy attached) that when the Committee gave its reasons for the sanctions which were applied to Nurse Bullas it made the following point:

"Although the panel has reached the conclusion that the most serious sanction must be imposed on the Registrant, the panel wishes, in fairness to the registrant, to make it clear that it should not be inferred from this that responsibility for the deficiencies in the care provided to Conor at Craigavon Area Hospital should be borne by her alone. The evidence before the panel revealed further wide-ranging and systemic deficiencies in Conor's treatment and care..."

Arising out of that conclusion the Inquiry would ask Craigavon Area Hospital to clarify the following:

Whether Craigavon Area Hospital has challenged the NMC's findings as set out above, and if so, how has this been done?

Secretary: Bernie Conlon
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We thank you for your continued assistance and look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Dillon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A" and "D".

Anne Dillon
Solicitor to the Inquiry