

# The Inquiry into Hyponatraemia-related Deaths

Chairman: Mr John O'Hara QC

Ms Joanna Bolton  
Directorate of Legal Services  
2 Franklin Street  
BELFAST  
BT2 8DQ

Our Ref: AD-0663-13

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> October 2013

Dear Ms Bolton,

**Re Conor Mitchell - Dr Bell's witness statement**

I refer to the above.

In his statement at 364/1, question 3(c)(iv) page 4, Dr. Bell (Consultant Paediatrician) has stated that he ensured that the Guidance was audited and the results brought to the Paediatric Departmental Meeting.

The auditing referred to by Dr. Bell in answer to this question appears to be different in nature to the auditing referred to elsewhere in his statement (question 4 and question 5).

In your letter of the 20 September which deals with initiatives to audit compliance with the Guidelines at page 10, we cannot find mention of any reference to an audit of the type now described by Dr. Bell.

Accordingly, we would ask you to take instructions to clarify the position with Dr. Bell:

1. Describe the steps taken by Dr. Bell to ensure that the Guidelines were audited.
2. Over what period of time did he ensure that the Guidelines were audited?
3. What process was adopted to audit the Guidelines?
4. What staff were involved in conducting this audit?
5. In what specific locations/units within the CAH were the Guidelines audited?
6. Who was responsible for collating the results of the audit?
7. How regularly were the results of the audit brought before the Paediatric Departmental Meeting?

**Secretary:** Bernie Conlon

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8. What were the results of the audit with respect to any particular period(s)?
9. Did the results of the audit lead to any change in clinical practice, the development of training, the formulation of new guidance or protocols, or any other change?
10. Provide any documentation relating to this audit. In particular the Inquiry would like to see any audit results or reports, relevant minutes of Paediatric Departmental Meetings, or any recommendations for change which emerged from the audit described by Dr. Bell.

Please treat this request as urgent. I would be grateful for your response by close of business tomorrow.

Yours sincerely,



Anne Dillon  
Solicitor to the Inquiry