



Our Ref. : RMcK/JG

16 January 2006

Ms Fiona Chamberlain  
Solicitor  
The Inquiry into Hyponatraemia-Related Deaths  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
20 Adelaide Street  
Belfast  
BT2 8GB

Dear Ms Chamberlain

**Re: Inquiry into Hyponatraemia Related Deaths**

Further to my letter of 22 July 2005 in this regard and your subsequent correspondence, please note the following comments on the outstanding points which have now been addressed.

The Trust's Human Resources Department do not have any input or remit in regard to clinical or professional training regarding nursing or medical staff and I have therefore posted the queries to a range of nursing and medical staff in the community and Muckamore Abbey Hospital. I have their responses and most commented that this information is not relevant to this Trust. Unfortunately I am unable to respond in relation to specific details around monitoring of education and training for medical staff.

Responsibility for the monitoring of clinical/professional education and training of nursing and medical staff resides with the respective Directors of Medical Services in the Community and Muckamore Abbey Hospital and the Director of Nursing. The Trust is a member of the Regional Education Commissioning Group and the South Eastern In Service Education Consortia, which are the main source of professional training of nursing staff within Northern Ireland. The Trust both commissions and reviews education and training for nursing staff and each nurse has a professional responsibility to maintain competence evidenced through professional portfolio detailing education and training. The Trust also maintains a database on attendance at training courses. Medical staff are all subject to continuing Professional Development through their Annual Appraisal which is monitored at each level by their Senior Practitioner or Line Manager.

*Caring in Partnership*

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The Trust provides a Corporate Induction Programme and has a Corporate Induction Policy (attached) which is currently under review and further development. All Medical and Nursing staff receive a detailed Induction Programme when they begin employment with the Trust. Please find enclosed Induction Programmes for Muckamore Abbey Hospital and Community District Nursing.

With reference to Point 4, this Trust does not engage in the recruitment of Medical and Nursing staff from overseas at the present time.

I trust you find these comments satisfactory.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. G. Black', written in a cursive style.

**R. G. Black**  
**Chief Executive**

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