

14 July 2005

Ms Fiona Chamberlain,
Solicitor,
The Inquiry into Hyponatraemia-related Deaths,
3rd Floor,
20 Adelaide Street,
BELFAST.
BT2 8GB

**south
& east
belfast
trust**

**Bringing
Care
To
People**

Dear Ms. Chamberlain,

I refer to your letter of 17 May 2005 regarding the Inquiry into Hyponatraemia-related Deaths, I apologise for the delay in responding, I hope the under mentioned will address your questions 1 to 5.

1. South and East Belfast HSS Trust provides a range of services for a population of 205,000 people living in South Belfast, East Belfast and Castlereagh. In addition the Trust provides regional specialist Mental Health Services, such as Forensic Psychiatry and Adolescent Mental Health In-patient Services, along with some services for a wider Belfast or Eastern Health and Social Services Board population. The Trust's main role is as a provider of Community Health, Social Work, Care Services, Mental Health Hospital and Community Services. Children and young people, adults and older people are all supported by services which maintain people at home if possible, or if necessary through residential or nursing home care. The Trust also has a commissioning role for those most vulnerable people needing complex care packages. Care is commissioned from the private and voluntary sector in addition to Trust provided services.
2. The majority of services are commissioned by the Eastern Health and Social Services Board within the Programme for Governance set out by the DHSSPS.

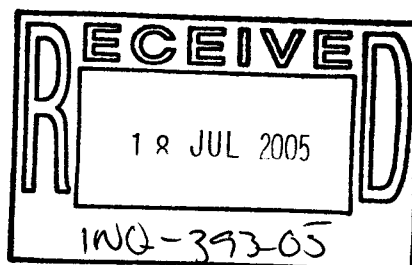
The Trust signs an annual Service Agreement with the Eastern Health and Social Services Board, Agreements are also signed with the three other Boards in Northern Ireland for the Regional Services delivered by the Trust. Monitoring information and issues associated with service pressures are submitted by the Trust to the Eastern Health and Social services Board on a regular basis throughout the year. Trust officers meet formally with the Eastern Health and Social Services Board on a quarterly basis to review service issues. The Trust generally meets annually with the other Area Commissioning Boards to discuss service issues.



Fairholme Supported Housing
Elderly Domiciliary Care Services
Physical Health & Disability Social
Work Services Team
Podiatry Services

South & East Belfast Health & Social Services Trust
Miss E. Patricia Gordon Chief Executive

Health & Social Services Trust



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3. Continuing professional development of Medical Consultants in the Trust is carefully monitored by the Medical Director through the Appraisal process. In relation to nursing, continuing professional development is in line with the requirements of PREP and is monitored through the Appraisal process. Identified needs are collated and where appropriate are factored into the commissioning process for nurse education. One example of good practice the Inquiry may wish to consider relates to practice in District Nursing where a card is issued to new members of staff identifying mandatory training (copy attached for information). Trust officers would be happy to talk to the Inquiry Team about this if it would be considered helpful.

The Trust has a Corporate Induction programme to which all staff are invited, I have enclosed a copy of same for your attention.

4. The Trust, at the time of writing, has not recruited directly from overseas.
5. There is a system in place within the Trust for the dissemination of information arising out of Public Inquiries, which have may have implications for the Trust. Such matters would be channelled through the Trust's Governance Board. To date the Trust has not been involved with any Coroners Inquest, which are likely to have wider implications. We are not aware of any formal mechanism in place to alert Trusts generally to information learned as a result of Coroners Inquests.

I hope the above is helpful.

James Surinandy

Patricia Gordon

MISS. E. PATRICIA GORDON
CHIEF EXECUTIVE