

From: MARTIN WOLFE [<mailto:martin.wolfe>]
Sent: 23 October 2013 22:57
To: 'Gerald McAlinden QC'
Subject: RE: IHRDNI (CM)

Dear Gerry

Thank-you for forwarding the below email from Mr. Roger McMillan. It is understood that you did so in order to assist the Inquiry, and that its content does not enjoy the support of the Trust. I am instructed to advise you that it is unnecessary for Dr. McCaughey to attend the Oral Hearings scheduled for Banbridge tomorrow. However, in light of the content of Mr. McMillan's representations on behalf of Dr. Humphrey it is essential that each of them are in attendance.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Wolfe

From: Gerald McAlinden QC [<mailto:gerald.mcalinden>]
Sent: 23 October 2013 21:17
To: martin.wolfe
Subject: FW: IHRDNI (CM)
Importance: High

From: Gerald McAlinden QC [<mailto:gerald.mcalinden>]
Sent: 23 October 2013 21:14
To: Martin Wolfe
Subject: FW: IHRDNI (CM)
Importance: High

Dear Martin,

See enclosed from Roger McMillan.

It must be stressed that this information is being provided on behalf Dr Humphrey.

This is not a submission which is being made by or on behalf of the Trust.

The fact that I am forwarding this to you should not be interpreted as meaning that the Trust is supporting the specific submissions made by Dr Humphrey.

The Trust accepts the Chairman's summary in its entirety.

The Trust does not seek to put a gloss on it.

Gerry.

From: Roger McMillan [<mailto:roger.mcmillan>]
Sent: 23 October 2013 20:44
To: 'gerald.mcalinden'; 'gmcalden'
Cc: 'Joanna Bolton'; 'john.johnston'
Subject: IHRDNI (CM)
Importance: High

Re: Dr Caroline Humphrey

Dear Sir/Madam,

As you are aware, we have been assisting Dr Caroline Humphrey on the instructions of the Medical Protection Society.

We are instructed to confirm to you that Dr Humphrey accepts the wording of the Chairman's response to the paper dated 22nd October 2013 from the Southern HSC Trust.

In an effort to assist the Inquiry, Dr Humphrey wishes to put into context the "third issue" detailed in the Chairman's response, that is, "*how the Chief Medical officer was advised on 7 April 2004 that there had been implementation of the guidelines*". Those matters that Dr Humphrey wishes the Inquiry to be aware of, some of which have been highlighted in her Witness Statement are as follows:

1. Dr Humphrey was not Medical Director at the time of the issuing of, or what she would submit was the reasonably expected period for implementation of, the 2002 Guidelines;
2. Dr Humphrey has a recollection of a meeting with Dr McCaughey to discuss the implementation of the Guidelines prior to replying to Dr Campbell (WS 354/1; 3a);
3. Dr Humphrey was either aware of or was incorrectly informed that a group of senior clinicians (as detailed in her letter to the CMO) had taken forward the Guidelines. Dr Humphrey notes Dr Smith's e-mail (329-38-002) which would lend some support to this position. If the position was not actually what Dr Humphrey stated in her correspondence, she believes that she was incorrectly informed or misunderstood what she had been told;
4. Dr Humphrey believed when she wrote to the CMO that the Guidelines had been adopted throughout the Trust. Dr Humphrey understands the Trust's position to be that the Guidelines were only adopted in Paediatrics. Dr Humphrey also understands, however, that before she wrote her letter, there seems to be evidence from a film clip taken in late 2003/early 2004 of the Guidelines being present in Recovery (that is, an area "where children are treated by surgical teams"). Again, therefore, Dr Humphrey considers that this lends some support to what is contained within her letter to the CMO;
5. You are aware (from WS 354/1) of Dr Humphrey's position regarding the Guidelines' posters (354/1; 5.d.)). Dr Humphrey is not suggesting that she clearly recalls the 2002 Guidelines being displayed in these areas, but does believe that she would have satisfied herself to an extent so as to address the CMO's letter. She fully appreciates that this was a rudimentary exercise;
6. Dr Humphrey notes that Sister O'Rourke confirmed at a meeting of Clinical Services/Managers on 29th March 2004 (25 days after the CMO's letter and 9 days before her letter to the CMO) that "Sister O'Rourke checked with Sisters that posters are on each ward re: the management of hyponatraemia and available for all members of staff, both medical/nursing to refer to";
7. Dr Humphrey considers that guidance on hyponatraemia appears to have been included in induction for junior doctors as of 2003 (Medical SHO Tutorials 2003/2004), if not before (? 2001). For example, Dr Sharpe appears to have given a presentation on Hyponatraemia on 2nd October 2003. Dr Humphrey understands that this may relate to adult Guidelines. However, if the position in this regard was not actually what Dr Humphrey stated in her correspondence to the CMO, she believes that she was either incorrectly informed or misunderstood what she had been told;
8. Dr Humphrey was of the view that junior medical staff would be told at their inductions that should they require assistance in the management of any patient, they should seek consultant input;
9. Dr Humphrey understands that the Trust did participate in a regional audit of the Guidance on the prevention and management of hyponatraemia in children co-ordinated through the SAC Paediatrics Committee. Dr Humphrey now notes Dr Jenkins' letter to Dr Sumner dated 28th June 2004 (just under 3 months after her letter to the CMO) in this regard (087-062h-242) in which he comments that there was evidence of an encouraging level of compliance with the guidelines in paediatric units but that there was also evidence of the guidelines not being fully followed. Dr Humphrey understands that the Trust have not been able to ascertain what the Audit showed in relation to CAH. In any event, Dr Humphrey now appreciates, with the benefit of hindsight, that this Audit does not appear to have included non-paediatric areas.

Dr Humphrey acknowledges that her letter to the CMO was not as robust as it could have been and

would wish to take this opportunity to sincerely apologise for the inaccurate information that was unintentionally provided to the CMO at that time.

Given the absence of a considerable amount of documentation that is likely to have existed previously (an issue that Dr Humphrey has raised previously with the Trust) as well as the passage of time, Dr Humphrey is unlikely to be able shed any further light on the issues raised. She does, however, wish to emphasise her desire to assist the Inquiry.

We would be grateful, however, if in light of her acceptance of the Chairman's wording and the issues raised above, the Inquiry would confirm whether, or not, it considers it necessary for Dr Humphrey to give evidence on any further issue.

Yours faithfully

Carson McDowell LLP



Roger McMillan
Partner

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