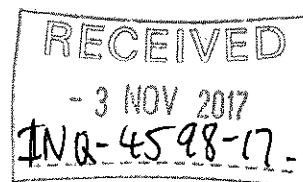


2 Franklin Street, Belfast, BT2 8DQ
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Strictly Private and Confidential

Mr Justice O'Hara
The Inquiry into Hyponatraemia-Related Deaths
Arthur House
41 Arthur Street
BELFAST
BT1 4GB



Date:
3 November 2017

Our Ref:
GA H99/85

Your Ref:
JOH-0458-17

Dear Judge

**REGIONAL HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE BOARD – WHISTLEBLOWING
CORRESPONDENCE**

I thank you for your letter of 30th ultimo.

I have checked with the Board the position with respect to the investigation prompted by the whistleblowing correspondence. The Board remains anxious to expedite the investigation, but, unfortunately, some logistical problems relating to the constitution of the investigating panel and the availability of witnesses, led to difficulties in finalising dates for interviews of witnesses. I understand the first interview has taken place and further interviews are planned over the next two weeks subject to the availability of witnesses. The investigation panel is also collating and examining relevant documents and I am not in a position at this stage to advise you when the investigation process will be completed. However I can assure you that you will be advised of the outcome of the investigation at the earliest opportunity.

I note in your letter you state you have an obligation to circulate the correspondence to all interested parties. Whilst the investigation by the Board is underway, it is obviously not yet complete. It is therefore not possible at present to draw any conclusion on the legitimacy or otherwise of the whistleblower's allegations. If the correspondence was shared with all interested parties at this stage, it will inevitably lead to ill-informed speculation, which would have the potential to spiral out of control.

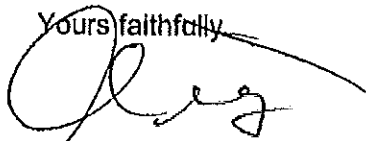
I would therefore suggest that the circulation of any relevant correspondence should be delayed until the outcome of the Board's investigation is known at which time any communication would be on an informed basis.

I trust this is of assistance but please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss this matter further.

Providing Support to Health and Social Care



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Yours faithfully

ALPHY MAGINNESS
Chief Legal Adviser

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