

# The Inquiry into Hyponatraemia-related Deaths

Chairman: Mr John O'Hara QC

Mr Alphy Maginness  
Director of Legal Services  
2 Franklin Street  
BELFAST  
BT2 8DQ

Your Ref:

Our Ref: JOH-0465-18

Date: 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018

Dear Mr Maginness,

## Re: REGIONAL HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE BOARD – WHISTLEBLOWING CORRESPONDENCE

It will not have come as a surprise to you that there has been a significant reaction to the disclosure that a person who I will refer to as a whistleblower made allegations relevant to this Inquiry. Your letter of 30<sup>th</sup> November 2017 indicates that the investigation found no basis for the allegations. However, the investigation was internal and there has been a background of concern during the running of the Inquiry about a disclosure of documents generally. Concerns about the absence of Board papers were raised in correspondence by the Inquiry team prior to and during the course of the public hearings. No explanation was given for the paucity of documentation.

I am anxious that this matter is satisfactorily dealt with in advance of the publication of the Inquiry Report in less than two weeks. Accordingly, I require you to provide to me the draft report on which your letter of 30<sup>th</sup> November is based, the final report and the documents gathered during the course of the investigation including the initial "complaint" or "disclosure" by the whistleblower. These should be delivered to the Inquiry office by 2.00 pm on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January.

I cannot guarantee that the documents will not be subsequently disclosed by the Inquiry, but I will not publish or share them without prior notice (with reasons) to you. This will enable you to make any representations or take any steps you deem appropriate.

**Secretary:** Bernie Conlon

Arthur House, 41 Arthur Street, Belfast, BT1 4GB

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The identity of the whistleblower will be revealed to the Inquiry as a result of the provision of these documents. Since that person is known to DLS and your client, I request that you put him/her on notice immediately of the contents of this letter so that he/she can take any steps which he/she thinks are appropriate.

Yours sincerely,

*John O'Hara*

JOHN O'HARA