

# 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-0466-18

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018

Dear Mr Maginness,

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

Thank you for your letter of 19<sup>th</sup> January with enclosures. It is my intention to circulate your letter together with the draft and final reports since these have been redacted and the anonymity of individuals has been protected.

While I am reassured to an extent by the content of the final report into the whistleblower's concerns, without the supporting documentation, (labelled Files 1, 2 and Lever Arch File B) it is incomplete. I would be grateful if these necessary appendices be forwarded to me today. I confirm that I will consider whether they should be made more widely available, in redacted form, only after taking into account your views and those of the other interested parties potentially affected. If the files are not provided today, it will be necessary for me to issue a statutory notice compelling production of them.

Additionally, please provide;

1. a copy of the Board's whistleblowing policy
2. any information relating to the whistle-blower's response to my letter of 18<sup>th</sup> inst.
3. confirmation that the IT equipment currently secured in Gransha Park House was searched as referred to by Ms Beggs in her letter to Ms Dillon dated 20<sup>th</sup> June 2013. I have enclosed a copy for your ease of reference.

I am grateful for the panel's offer to meet me but consider that in the circumstances would be inappropriate.

Yours sincerely,



JOHN O'HARA

**Secretary:** Bernie Conlon

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

**Email:** inquiry@ihrdni.org **Website:** www.ihrdni.org **Tel:** 028 9044 6340 **Fax:** 028 9044 6341

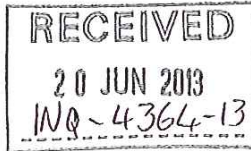


**Business Services  
Organisation**

**Directorate of Legal Services**

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HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE SECTOR —

2 Franklin Street, Belfast, BT2 8DQ  
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Your Ref:  
BMCL-0062-13

Our Ref:  
HYPH099/03

Date:  
20<sup>th</sup> June 2013

Ms A Dillon  
Solicitor to the Inquiry  
Inquiry into Hyponatraemia-related Deaths  
Arthur House  
41 Arthur Street  
Belfast  
BT1 4GB

Dear Madam,

**RE: INQUIRY INTO HYPONATRAEMIA RELATED DEATHS- R FERGUSON  
(PRELIMINARY) Our Client: The Health and Social Care Board**

I refer to the above and to previous correspondence herein. I understand that the issue of documentation retained and held by the former WHSSB following the death of Lucy Crawford was discussed at the hearing yesterday. The Health and Social Care Board wishes to assure you that it conducted thorough and extensive searches in order to ascertain whether it held any other documentation which had not already been provided to the Inquiry.

I am instructed that the recent searches conducted by the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) and Public Health Agency (PHA) between November 2012 and February 2013 centred on historical records located at Gransha Park House, Londonderry, the former Headquarters of the legacy Western Health and Social Care Board (WHSSB). A date range defined as April 2000 to November 2004 was used to focus the search to relevant physical and electronic material, with key word searches being employed to identify potentially relevant electronic records. Additional searches requested in 2013 incorporated a wider date range and related to Clinical Governance matters.

The search was coordinated through the Regional Health and Social Care Board's Corporate Services Team, and drew on the knowledge of officers previously within the employ of the former WHSSB from the Office of the WHSSB Chief Executive and former Public Health Department who are now employees of the HSCB and PHA.

The search team also engaged IT support to attempt to identify and reinstall any archived/legacy emails from the period in question that remained on computer hard drives, as well as facilitating access to known archived server files located on a server at the Gransha Park site.

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In addition, an audit was initiated to look back at legacy asset registers of IT equipment from the period to establish if any personal computers issued to key former employees were still retained. This resulted in a number of hard drives on newer PCs being searched for archived legacy material, which had been generated in the period in question.

The combined results of these searches provided limited additional material not already provided to the Inquiry Team in 2004 by the former WHSSB.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "PP JRBalta" with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Wendy Beggs  
Assistant Chief Legal Adviser