

# The Inquiry into Hyponatraemia-related Deaths

Chairman: Mr John O'Hara QC

## CHAIRMAN'S NOTE

In recent weeks an issue about documents and records has emerged through a whistle-blower. That person raised a number of issues including one about assurances given to the Inquiry in relation to searches for documents in 2004 and 2012/13. The query which has been raised is whether the Inquiry was in any way misled when it was told about the extent of searches for documents which might have been expected to be found among records from what was the Western Health & Social Services Board. That is an issue which concerned the Inquiry when it sought to investigate communications between Sperrin Lakeland Trust and the WHSSB following the death of Lucy Crawford in 2000. It led to extensive correspondence and then to questioning of witnesses on that issue among others.

I have required the production to me of the documents generated by the whistle-blower's complaint. On an initial examination of them I have formed the view that this issue needs to be explored further. I have met the Permanent Secretary of the DoH, Mr Pengelly, to advise him of the need to investigate this issue and obtain reassurance that adequate resourcing will be provided to the Inquiry for that purpose. He has readily accepted that notwithstanding the release of the report tomorrow, the Inquiry will continue for the purpose of investigating the issues involved in and surrounding the whistle-blower's complaint. I will have whatever support and resources I need for that purpose.

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