

The Inquiry into Hyponatraemia-related Deaths

Chairman: Mr John O'Hara QC

Press Release from the Inquiry into Hyponatraemia-related Deaths

Progress Hearing

Date issued: 1st February 2012

The Inquiry into Hyponatraemia-related Deaths will be holding a progress hearing at 10am on Friday, 3rd February in Banbridge Courthouse, Banbridge.

The purpose of the hearing will be to provide an update on Inquiry progress, and to discuss procedures in advance of the commencement of the Inquiry's full public hearings on Monday, 20th February. Interested parties will also be able to raise any issues which are of concern to them.

Editors' notes:

1. The Progress Hearing on 3rd February is a public hearing and the media are welcome to attend. However, filming, photography and audio-recording will not be permitted in the Inquiry Chamber. Banbridge Courthouse is on Victoria Street, Banbridge, BT32 3DH.
2. The Inquiry Chairman is John O'Hara QC.
3. The Inquiry was established in November 2004 by the then Minister for Health in Northern Ireland, Angela Smith MP.
4. The Inquiry's terms of reference are as follows:
 - to hold an Inquiry into the events surrounding and following the deaths of Adam Strain and Raychel Ferguson, with particular reference to:
 - i. the care and treatment of Adam Strain and Raychel Ferguson, especially in relation to the management of fluid balance and the choice and administration of intravenous fluids in each case;
 - ii. the actions of the statutory authorities, other organisations and responsible individuals concerned in the procedures, investigations and events which followed the deaths of Adam Strain and Raychel Ferguson;

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- iii. the communications with and explanations given to the respective families and others by the relevant authorities;
 - to report on the areas specifically identified above and, at the Chairman's discretion, examine and report on any other matters which arise in connection with the Inquiry
 - to make such recommendations to the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety as the Chairman considers necessary and appropriate.
5. Further information, including details of the Inquiry's interpretation of its Terms of Reference, and additional matters being investigated by the Inquiry are available on the Inquiry's website at: www.ihrdni.org
6. Any media enquiries should be directed to the Inquiry's Press Officer, Liz Fawcett, on 028 9020 0811 or 0771 943 5662. Liz can also be contacted by E-mail at: liz@lizfawcettconsulting.com