

Witness Statement Ref. No.

060/2

NAME OF CHILD: Adam Strain

Name: Patricia Conway

Title: Mrs

Present position and institution: Health Visitor, Southern Trust.

Previous position(s) and institution(s):
[Since your Witness Statement of 29th June 2005]

Membership of Advisory Panels and Committees:
[Identify by date and title all of those since your Witness Statement of 29th June 2005]

Other Statements, Depositions and Reports:
[Identify by date and title all those since your Witness Statement of 29th June 2005]

OFFICIAL USE:
List of previous statements, depositions and reports attached (*):

Ref:	Date:	
060/1	29.06.05	Witness Statement to the Inquiry
093-009	16.02.06	PSNI Witness Statement

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS FOR ANSWERING:

Please attach additional sheets if more space is required. Please identify clearly any document to which you refer or rely upon for your answer. If the document has an Inquiry reference number, e.g. Ref: 049-001-001 which is 'Chart No.1 Old Notes', then please provide that number. If the document does not have such a number then please provide a copy of the document.

I QUERIES ARISING OUT OF YOUR INQUIRY WITNESS STATEMENT

With reference to your Inquiry Witness Statement dated 29th June 2005, please provide clarification and/or further information in respect of the following:

(1) Answer to Question 1 on Page 2:

"I recall that I was on night duty on the night of 26th November 1995. We prepared theatre for Adam's renal transplant and prepared the instrument sets."

- (a) Describe your work commitments to the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children (RBHSC) from the start of your employment there and particularly over the period 26th November to 28th November 1995**

I was employed in RBHSC as a Paediatric Staff Nurse in Theatres where I was working over the period of 26th November to 28th November 1995.

- (b) Describe what you considered to be your role in relation to and responsibilities towards Adam from learning on 26th November 1995 of a potential donor kidney for him until 28th November 1995 when ventilatory support for him was withdrawn, and in particular:**

- from Adam's admission to RBHSC until his arrival in theatre
- while Adam was in theatre until his admission to PICU
- from admission to PICU until his death

My responsibility along with my theatre colleagues was to provide a safe environment for Adam. This included the preparation of Theatre prior to his surgery ensuring all equipment was available and functioning and that Adam was safely admitted to theatre. From admission to PICU until his death I had no responsibility or role.

- (c) State the time at which you first learned that there was a possibility that renal transplant surgery would be carried out, including how you learned about it and the identity of the person(s) who informed you**

I cannot recall who informed me that a renal transplant was planned for the following morning but I knew that during the night the theatre had to be prepared for Adam's renal transplant and that S/N Popplestone was coming on duty early to prepare her instrument set as scrub nurse.

(d) State when, by whom and in what circumstances you were first informed that the transplant surgery would proceed and the time for which you were asked to prepare the *"theatre for Adam's renal transplant and ... the instrument sets"*

See response to question 1C.

(e) Identify any protocol or guidelines governing your actions in respect of *"prepared theatre for Adam's renal transplant and ... the instrument sets"*

It was standard practice to prepare theatre by the following:

- Theatre damp dusted
- Ensure all fluids and equipment fully stocked in set up area
- Ensure all instrument sets required for renal transplant surgery were available and sterile

(f) Identify those referred to by *"We"* in your statement *"We prepared theatre"*

I refer to the other members of staff on duty that night. I cannot recall who those members of staff were.

(g) Describe the experience that you had prior to 27th November 1995 in preparing theatre and instruments for paediatric renal transplant surgery, including the:

- estimated total number of such surgical cases, together with the dates and where they took place
- number of the children involved who were aged less than 6 years old
- anaesthetists and surgeons involved

I am aware that I was involved with other cases of renal transplant surgery however I cannot recall numbers or dates of cases or their ages.

(2) Answer to Question 1 on Page 2:

"I 'handed over' the information to Janie Mathewson, Staff Nurse at 8am on 27th November 1995 and I went off duty."

(a) Identify and describe the *"information"* that you *"handed over' ... to Janie Mathewson, Staff Nurse at 8am on 27th November 1995"*

I handed over the swab count form (058-007-020) and advised her that staff Nurse Popplestone had prepared her instrument trolleys ready to scrub for surgery.

(b) Identify the persons who were (or had been present) in the operating theatre up until you *"handed over' ... to Janie Mathewson at 8.am on 27th November 1995 and ... went off duty"* and describe the progress of the surgery up until you left the theatre

I cannot recall the members of staff on duty however I do know that Staff Nurse Popplestone had joined us at approx 7am.

(c) State if there was a designated anaesthetic nurse in theatre during the transplant procedure and, if so, identify that person.

I was not present during the transplant procedure so cannot answer this question.

(d) State if, on 27th November 1995, you knew how to use a blood gas machine to test electrolytes and whether you were trained and authorised to do so

I did not know how to use a blood gas machine. It was not within the remit of a staff nurse. Any blood gas tests were carried out by the MTO's or medical staff.

II QUERIES ARISING OUT OF YOUR PSNI STATEMENT

With reference to your PSNI Statement dated 16th February 2006 (Ref: 093-009-027) please provide clarification and/or further information in respect of the following:

(3) *"I was on night duty the night prior to his planned renal transplant, that is the 26 November 1995. As part of the team I helped prepare the theatre for Adam"*

(a) State the times at which you were on duty over the period 26th November 1995 to 28th November 1995

26th November 8pm to 8am 27th November 1995

(b) Identify the members of the theatre "team" who "helped prepare the theatre for Adam" and describe their respective responsibilities

See answer to 1f above

(4) *"At about 8.00am I was going off duty and I had handed over to Janice Matthewson, Staff Nurse. She was acting as runner in the operation. I told her Adam was checked in theatre according to our procedures. I gave her the x-rays and the pre-operative swab count etc. This involved confirming to her that everything on a pre-operative check-list was complete."*

(a) Describe the role of "Janice Matthewson, Staff Nurse ... as runner"

The role of the runner is to get anything required by the scrub nurse.

(b) Identify and describe the "procedures" to which you refer

By procedures I meant standard practice at that time.

(c) Identify in Adam's medical notes and describe the use of the "pre-operative check-list" to which you refer

The preoperative check list was the instrument check list which returned to the central sterile supplies department (C.S.S.D.) with the instrument set following surgery when all instruments are accounted for.

III ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

(5) Describe in detail the education and training you received in fluid management (in particular hyponatraemia) and record keeping through the following, providing dates and names of the institutions/bodies:

(a) **Pre-registration education**

During both my Adult nurse training and paediatric nurse training I received training on how to record fluid management on fluid balance sheets and how to administer fluids according to the prescription by medical staff.

However, in the case of Adam Strain I did not record or administer any fluids.

(b) **Post-registration education and training**

None

(c) **Hospital induction programmes**

None apart from where fluids were stored and how to check the correct fluid, expiry date, volume to be delivered and rate of delivery.

(d) **Continuous professional development**

I do not work in an acute environment and so fluid management relating to hyponatraemia is not relevant to my current practice.

In relation to record keeping, I received and continue to receive continued updates on the importance of record keeping.

(6) Prior to 26th November 1995, describe in detail your experience of the care and management of children with hyponatraemia, including:

- the estimated total number of such cases, together with the dates and where they took place
- the nature of your involvement
- the outcome for the children

Prior to the 26th November 1995 I had no experience of the care and management of children with hyponatraemia.

(7) Describe in your detail your experience, since 27th November 1995, in the care and management of children with hyponatraemia

Since 27th November 1995 I have had no experience in the care and management of children with hyponatraemia.

(8) Identify precisely on Adam's medical notes and records the entries that you made or which were made on your direction and state below:

(a) when each of the identified entries was made

(b) the source of the information recorded in the entry

swab count form 058-007-020 27th November 1995.

I cannot identify any other entries.

- (9) Provide any further points and comments that you wish to make, together with any documents, in relation to:
- (a) The care and treatment of Adam from his admission for the renal transplant surgery on 26th November 1995 to his death on 28th November 1995
 - (b) Record keeping
 - (c) Communications with Adam's family about his care and treatment in respect of the renal transplant surgery
 - (d) Lessons learned from Adam's death and how that has affected your practice
 - (e) Current 'protocols' and procedures
 - (f) Any other relevant matter

THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF

Signed:

Robert M Conway

Dated:

2/5/11.