

Witness Statement Ref. No. 067/J

INQUIRY INTO HYPONATRAEMIA-RELATED DEATHS

Name: John Allen

Title: Mr

Present position and department/employer:

Deputy Director, Planning & Performance Management Directorate Planning & Priorities Unit ("PPU"), DHSSPS

Length of time in post: 1 year 1 month

Previous position and department/employer in 1995:

Grade 7, Supply 2, Department of Finance and Personnel

Previous position and department/employer in 2000:

Grade 7, Finance Directorate, DHSSPS

Previous position and department/employer in 2001:

Grade 7, Finance Directorate, DHSSPS

Membership of Professionals Bodies:

Particular areas of interest

[Please attach additional sheets if more space is required]

(i) How and when did you first become aware of the deaths of Adam, Lucy and Raychel?

While I had heard talk within the Department of one or two of the cases, it was only on receiving this witness statement that I acquired any solid information on the deaths of these children.

(ii) Describe in detail the steps taken by you within Planning and Priorities to ensure that lessons were learned from these deaths.

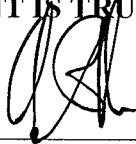
PPU's remit includes risk management and controls assurance (as well as the Department's efficiency review and production of the Minister's annual *Priorities for Action*). It does not, however, cover policy on clinical/social care risk or governance or on patient safety. This accounts for the fact that I was largely unaware of the three deaths and explains why it was not for PPU to take steps to see that lessons were duly learned.

Other points you wish to make including additions to any previous Statements, Depositions and or Reports

[Please attach additional sheets if more space is required]

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

Signed:



[JRB ALLEN]

Dated: 6th June 2005