

Witness Statement Ref. No. 072/1**INQUIRY INTO HYPONATRAEMIA-RELATED DEATHS****Name: Andrew Browne****Title: Mr****Present position and department/employer:****Head of Eastern Board Unit/Deputy Director of Secondary Care, Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety ("DHSSPS")****Length of time in post: 3 Years****Previous position and department/employer in 1995:****Deputy Principal, Department of Health and Social Services
(seconded to Northern Ireland Office, Compensation Agency)****Previous position and department/employer in 2000:****Grade 7, Head of Personnel Development, DHSSPS****Previous position and department/employer in 2001:****Grade 7, Head of Personnel Development, DHSSPS, but from April 2001 to June 2002 I was
seconded as Secretary to the Human Organs Inquiry****Membership of Professionals Bodies: None**

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.**

I was made aware of the death of Raychel Ferguson through a submission prepared by Dr Miriam McCarthy for a Ministerial visit to Altnagelvin on 20 February 2003 (reference no: 006-039-389). I and a colleague, Rosemary Scott, were to accompany the Minister on that visit. It was late October/early November 2004 before I knew of the other two deaths. This was in the context of a statutory inquiry being established. I was only involved because of my relatively recent experience of a statutory inquiry, ie the Human Organs Inquiry 2001-02.

- (ii) **Describe in detail the steps you took to discover why these children died and to ensure that lessons were learned for the future.**

None, as this did not lie within my area of responsibility.

- (iii) **Give details of colleagues within the DHSSPS and others with whom you discussed the steps to be taken in response to the children's deaths, to include the reason why they were contacted by you, when and the outcome of your discussions.**

None, for the reason stated at (ii) above.

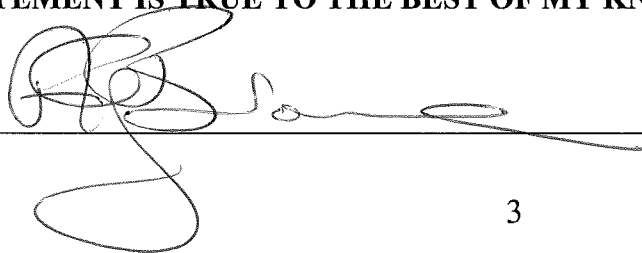
Other points you wish to make including additions to any previous Statements, Depositions and or Reports

[Please attach additional sheets if more space is required]

Since November 2004 I have taken the lead within Secondary Care, as the relevant policy directorate, for papers and correspondence relating to the Inquiry, but had no involvement with any of the cases or related issues prior to that date.

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

Signed:



Dated: 30 June 2005