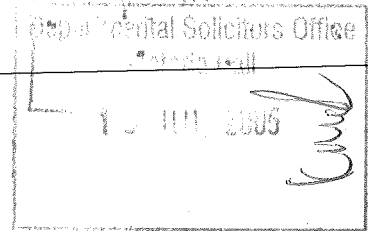


Witness Statement Ref. No. 089/1

**INQUIRY INTO HYPONATRAEMIA-RELATED DEATHS**



**Name: Kevin Mulhern**

**Title: Mr**

**Present position and department/employer:**

**Deputy Director of Communications**

**Queen's University Belfast**

**Length of time in post: 10 months**

**(Employed as Senior Information Officer at DHSSPS from January 2002 – July 2004)**

**Previous position and department/employer in 1995:**

**Public Relations Manager, Green Park Healthcare Trust**

**Previous position and department/employer in 2000:**

**Public Relations Manager, Green Park Healthcare Trust**

**Previous position and department/employer in 2001:**

**Senior Information Officer, Department for Employment and Learning**

**Membership of Professionals Bodies:**

N/A

**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?**

**To the best of my knowledge I never became aware of the death of Adam during my period of employment at DHSSPS.**

**I became aware of death of Raychel in February 2003 following a media enquiry.**

**I became aware of death of Lucy in February 2004 following a media enquiry.**

**(ii) What was your role as Senior Information Officer in the information and advice that was provided to the Minister and DHSSPS officials in relation to the deaths of Adam, Lucy and Raychel and the Inquests into their deaths?**

**As Senior Information Officer I dealt with and provided advice on media enquiries and media bids for interviews.**

**Particular areas of interest (Cont'd)**

(iii) How did you go about fulfilling that role?

I liaised with the Chief Medical Officer and her office. They provided lines to take, which were cleared by the Permanent Secretary or where he was not available a Deputy Secretary. The agreed lines were then passed to the media. I also facilitated interviews.

(iv) Where and from whom was the information obtained on which the 'lines' recommended for the Minister and the briefings provided to others was based?

Lines to take and briefings were provided by the Chief Medical Officer and her team.

(v) Give details of your colleagues within the DHSSPS and others, including the rest of the UK, with whom you discussed the steps to be taken in response to the death of Adam, Lucy and Raychel and the Inquests into their deaths, to include: (a) the reason for the contact, (b) when the contact took place, (c) and the outcome of the discussions.

To the best of my knowledge the case of Adam did not come up during my period of employment at DHSSPS.

I liaised with the Permanent Secretary, Chief Medical Officer and her team, Private Office and my colleagues in the Information Office in discussing media issues relating to Lucy and Raychel. This included media enquiries for lines to take and interview bids and resulted in lines to take being provided and interview bids being facilitated. These contacts took place on a number of occasions between February 2003 and July 2004.

**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]*

I left DHSSPS on 30 July 2004 to take up a new post as Deputy Director of Communications at Queen's University Belfast.

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



**Signed: Kevin Mulhern**



**Dated: 30 June 2005**