

Witness Statement Ref. No.

100/1

NAME OF CHILD: Adam Strain

Name: Eleanor Donaghy

Title: Ms

Present position and institution:
NI Organ Donor Services Team, Team Manager
NHS Blood & Transplant

Previous position(s) and institution(s):
[As at the time of the child's death]
Transplant Co-ordinator, Belfast City Hospital

Membership of Advisory Panels and Committees:
[Identify by date and title all of those between January 1995-December 2010]

1994 DHSS Renal Services Review
1998 - 2000 UK Transplant Co-ordinators rep on Kidney Advisory Group, UK Transplant
2002 DHSSPSNI Renal Services Review
2008 PHA/DHSSPSNI NI Implementation Group ODTF Report Jan 2008

Other Statements, Depositions and Reports:
[Identify by date and title all those made in relation to the child's death]

OFFICIAL USE:

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

Ref:	Date:	
093-015	28.04.06	PSNI Witness Statement
093-016	21.06.06	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 FIRST PSNI WITNESS STATEMENT

With reference to your PSNI Witness Statement dated 28th April 2006 (Ref: 093-015-047), please provide clarification and/or further information in respect of the following:

(1) *"I am a Transplant Co-ordinator based at the City Hospital in Belfast. I have been in this position since June 1992. My job involves co-ordinating organ donation in Northern Ireland and renal transplants within the Belfast area. "*

(a) State how many renal transplants you had been involved in before 26th November 1995, and what proportion of those concerned children

I do not know how many renal transplants I was involved in before 26th November 1995.

Involvement was dependant upon being "on-call". I was on-call one out of every three weeks therefore I might have been involved in one third of them. Between one and six paediatric transplants were performed per year. I was not responsible for contacting or arranging the transplant of those children who received transplants in RBHSC.

(b) Describe your work commitments to the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children (RBHSC) from the date of your employment as a Transplant Co-ordinator and particularly over the period 26th November to 28th November 1995

Commitment to renal transplantation was secondary to the organ donation role and dependant on being on-call. If I was not on-call transplants were organised by the Consultant Nephrologist on-call. Transplants in RBHSC were organised by staff there.

When Adam Strain had been declared Brain Stem Dead on 28th November 1995 his mother enquired if it was possible to donate organs for transplant. I then had a commitment to talk to her about organ donation and to obtain consent and to make arrangements for the donation. (058-035-142)

(c) State the times at which you were on duty between 26th November and 28th November 1995 and in particular whether during that period you were:

- on duty and present in the hospital at all times or
- on call

I do not know at what times I was on duty between these dates as I have no old rotas.

(d) Explain what your job of (i) "co-ordinating organ donation in Northern Ireland" and (ii) "co-ordinating ... renal transplants within the Belfast area" entailed in November 1995

I worked a 1 week in 3 on-call rota in the support of organ donation throughout Northern Ireland. If Doctors in any Intensive Care Unit thought they had a patient who might be suitable to donate organs they contacted me and I travelled to the Unit to give support, from obtaining consent, arranging for surgical teams to come to retrieve the organs right through to last offices for the donor. If the donated kidneys were to be used for local recipients I would then organise the transplant operation in the Belfast City Hospital. This involved giving information to the transplanting surgeon and the patient's Nephrologist about the donated kidney, booking theatre if the transplant was to go ahead, and calling in the patient for transplant. If I was not on-call and a transplant was to be arranged it was usually done by the Consultant Nephrologist on-call.

If the transplant was to be carried out in RBHSC it was staff there who contacted the patient's family to admit them and to arrange theatre.

(e) 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:

- the donor kidney arriving at the Transplant Centre
- Adam's admission to RBHSC until his arrival in theatre
- when Adam was in theatre until his admission to PICU
- from admission to PICU until his death

I was not involved in setting up the transplant for Adam nor calling him in for transplant.

As Transplant Co-ordinator I would have had a role, following any transplant, in discussing with the recipients the possibility of sending an anonymous letter of thanks to the donor family.

In Adam's case the only role I had to play was to discuss the possibility of organ donation on 28 November with his mother.

I also completed sections of Kidney Donor Information form. Although completion of this form was the responsibility of the transplant surgeon I completed sections of the form on his behalf.

(2) *"The kidney usually comes to the City Hospital and is collected by the surgeon prior to the operation."*

(a) Following receipt of the offer of the kidney for Adam, describe and explain the timings and process by which the donor kidney was brought to the RBHSC, including:

- the identify of the person that collected the donor kidney for Adam's transplant
- when the kidney arrived in Belfast
- where it was collected from
- when it arrived at RBHSC

I was not involved in the kidney being offered or brought over to RBHSC. I do not know who was.

(3) *"Section 11 of the Kidney Donor Information Form was completed by myself, though it was ultimately the responsibility of the surgeon, however, in practice it was usually the co-ordinator who filled it in. D/Constable Monaghan has asked me about points 3 and 4 on the form; the time the kidney was removed from the ice and at what time it perfused with the recipient's blood. These times usually come from the kidney transplant record book but could also have been taken from the notes or verbally from someone in theatre. At point 8, kidney damage I wrote 'widely separated patch', however, I did not amend it with the words 'arteries on one patch'. The form stays in the patient's notes and is always checked by the surgeon and is commonplace for them to add technical data. The surgeon checks the forms prior to placing it in the patient's notes."*

(a) State when and in what circumstances you first saw the *"Kidney Donor Information Form"* (Ref: 058-009-025)

It is now 16 years after the event and it is difficult to state categorically whether my recollections are accurate given the passage of time.

I do not remember when I first saw the Kidney Donor Information Form (Ref: 058-009-025).

(b) Identify the person responsible for ensuring that the *"Kidney Donor Information Form"* is completed, is accurate and is placed in the patient's notes

The transplanting surgeon is responsible for completion of the Kidney Donor Information Form.

(c) State when and in what circumstances you completed section II of the *"Kidney Donor Information Form"*, including identifying the person who gave you the information in respect of *"widely separated patch"* and the person that provided the information for the completion of section II details at items 3, 4, 8 and 9

I do not remember completing section II of the Kidney Donor Information Form. I do not know if items 3 and 4 were completed in theatre or post-operatively. I do not remember completing items 8 & 9. However any information in item 8 would have been transcription of technical information given to me by the surgeon performing the transplant.

(d) Explain the significance of the amendment by the words *"arteries on one patch"* and state who made that amendment, when and on what basis

I do not know who made the amendment to the form and this is a surgical term which would be best explained by the Surgeon.

(e) Describe and explain what you did with the *"Kidney Donor Information Form"* once you had completed section II

I do not remember what I did with the form after I had written on it.

(4) *"I remember the day of Adam's operation I went over to RHBS (sic) with the purpose of seeing Adam's parents. I recall meeting Staff Nurse Joanne Clinghan (sic) who informed me that Adam might be brain stem dead and was still in theatre. At the time she was based in Musgrave Ward"*

(a) Identify who was responsible for co-ordinating the arrangements for Adam's renal transplant surgery and describe and explain what role you played in those arrangements

I played no role in arranging Adam's transplant surgery and I do not know who did.

- (b) State when and by whom you were first informed about the possibility of renal transplant surgery for Adam

I cannot remember how I first found out that Adam was receiving a kidney transplant.

- (c) State when you were first informed that Adam had been admitted to the RBHSC for possible renal transplant surgery and state the time at which you *"went over to RHBSC (sic) with the purpose of seeing Adam's parents"*

I cannot remember how I was informed that Adam had been admitted to RBHSC nor at what time I went over to RBHSC.

- (d) State whether your role included discussion with Adam's mother regarding the surgery and obtaining her consent and, if so, describe what was discussed and when and where the discussions occurred.

I had no discussion with Adam's mother prior to his surgery. I did not meet Adam's mother at any time from his admission to his renal transplant.

- (e) State the time at which you met Staff Nurse Joanne Clingham and describe the circumstances in which she informed you that *"Adam might be brain stem dead and was still in theatre"*

I cannot remember at what time I met Joanne Clingham, it was in a Corridor in RBHSC.

- (5) *"I changed and went into theatre where the mood was very sombre. I think the surgeons were still at the table but I don't know what stage of the procedure they were at. I don't know what time it was that I went into the operating theatre."*

- (a) Explain why you *"went into theatre"*, state the time at which you did so and how long you were in theatre

I cannot remember at what time I went into theatre. I went in to find out what was happening. I do not remember how long I was there.

- (b) Describe and explain what you mean by *"the mood was very sombre"* and the basis upon which you formed that view

I think that it was very quiet and no one was talking.

II QUERIES ARISING OUT OF YOUR SECOND PSNI WITNESS STATEMENT

With reference to your PSNI Witness Statement dated 21st June 2006 (Ref: 093-016-049), please provide clarification and/or further information in respect of the following:

(6) *"I have also been asked about who was present in the theatre when I went in. I can only say that I remember Patrick Keane (surgeon) being at the table. There was another surgeon, however, I do not recall who it was. There were other staff present in the operating theatre; however, I do not recall who they were. I remember when I was in the theatre wondering why they were continuing with the procedure if the child was supposed to be brain dead; however, I would not be able to say what part of the procedure they were at."*

(a) Describe and explain what you mean by *"were continuing with the procedure"*

I had thought 'why are they continuing to transplant this kidney when the child is brain stem dead'. However I did not know what part of the procedure they were at.

III ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

(7) Identify any 'Protocols' and/or 'Guidelines' which governed your actions in respect of Adam's renal transplant surgery

I am not aware of protocols in RBHSC for arranging a transplant at that time nor, to my knowledge, were there any National guidelines.

(8) Provide any further points and comments that you wish to make, together with any documents, in relation to:

(a) Record keeping

(b) Communications with Adam's family about his care and treatment in respect of the renal transplant surgery

(c) Lessons learned from Adam's death and its effect upon your work

(d) Current 'protocols' and procedures

(e) Any other relevant matter

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

Signed: *Cleaver Dancy*.

Dated: *14 April 11.*