

Witness Statement Ref. No. 284/2

NAME OF CHILD: RAYCHEL FERGUSON (LUCY CRAWFORD)

Name: Dara O'Donoghue

Title: Doctor

Present position and institution:

Consultant Paediatrician (Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children) / Clinical Academic Teaching Fellow (Queens University Belfast)

Previous position and institution:

[As at the time of the child's death]

Senior House Officer (Acting Registrar) Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children

Membership of Advisory Panels and Committees:

[Identify by date and title all of those between January 2000 - August 2012]

Previous Statements, Depositions and Reports:

[Identify by date and title all those made in relation to the child's death]

As below

OFFICIAL USE:

List of previous statements, depositions and reports:

Ref:	Date:	
WS-284/2	04-05-2000	Medical Certificate of Cause of Death of Lucy Crawford
	04-03-2005	1 st Statement to PSNI
	04-03-2005	2 nd Statement to PSNI
	07-11-2012	Statement to the Inquiry

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 an Inquiry reference number, then please provide a copy of the document attached to your statement.

- (1) You have said in answer to question 8 WS-284/1 that you spoke to Dr. Stewart (Registrar) to get her advice. For the avoidance of doubt are you referring to Dr. Caroline Stewart (Paediatric Registrar, working in Paediatric Neurology)?**

In answer to question 8 WS-284/ i am referring to Dr Caroline Stewart (Paediatric Registrar, working in Paediatric Neurology).

- (2) You have said in answer to question 16(d) WS-284/1 that you no longer hold the view that Lucy suffered cerebral oedema due to or in consequence of dehydration.**

Please address the following matters:

- (a) Can you explain why the death certificate states that the cerebral oedema was due to or in consequence of dehydration?**

The notes indicate that, as a junior member of the paediatric team in PICU, I sought advice in relation to completion of the death certificate from the Consultant Paediatric Neurologist - and was advised to record in the death certificate that the cerebral oedema was due to or in consequence of dehydration.

- (b) At the time that the death certificate was completed, did you believe that the cerebral oedema was due to or in consequence of dehydration? If so, please explain how you reached that view and if applicable, identify the clinical features which supported that view.**

At the time that the death certificate was completed, I was aware that Lucy had cerebral oedema. I was also aware that she had been dehydrated as a result of having had gastroenteritis. I sought advice from the Consultant Paediatric Neurologist and accepted his advice that the cerebral oedema was due to or in consequence of dehydration.

- (c) If you did believe that the cerebral oedema was due to, or in consequence of dehydration at the time of completing the M CCD, explain the circumstances in which you came to understand that this view was incorrect and why you no longer hold that view.

At a later date, as a result of increasing information available on the risks of the use of No. 18 solution, I became aware that the cerebral oedema occurred as a result of inappropriate prescribing of No. 18 solution rather than as a result of dehydration.

- (3) Do you recognise the document at Ref: 061-005-012? If so, please explain what it refers to.

I do not recognise the document and do not know what it refers to.

- (4) Please clarify the arrangements which were in place at RBHSC in April 2000 for receiving patient notes by fax from another hospital and for delivering them to relevant clinicians in PICU? Were the notes sent directly to an office within PICU, and did a member of admin staff place the notes on the patient's chart?

I believe that in April 2000 faxes of patient notes were received in the secretarial office in PICU and then either taken by a secretary to the relevant clinician (to whom the fax was addressed), or picked up by the clinician themselves. I do not know if there was an arrangement in place for admin staff to place notes in the patient's chart.

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

Signed:

Dated: 22/01/13