

Witness Statement Ref. No.

303/1

NAME OF CHILD: RAYCHEL FERGUSON (LUCY CRAWFORD)

Name: Angela Colhoun

Title: Ms.

Present position and institution:

Consultant Solicitor

Previous position and institution: Her Majesty's Coroner for Fermanagh and Omagh

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

Membership of Advisory Panels and Committees:

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

Member of The Coroners Association of Northern Ireland until my retirement on 2nd January 2002.

Previous Statements, Depositions and Reports:

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

None.

OFFICIAL USE:

List of previous statements, depositions and reports:

Ref:	Date:	

*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*

(1) Please address the following questions with regard to your qualifications, experience and occupation/post:

(a) State your professional qualifications, and the date on which they were obtained.  
Admitted as a Solicitor on 15th September 1971.

(b) Specify the date on which you were appointed to the role of Coroner.  
3rd April 1987 Acting Coroner.  
7th April 1990 Coroner.

(c) State whether your appointment was in a full or part time capacity.  
Part time.

(d) Outline the training which you received to enable you to perform the role of Coroner.  
None.

(e) Specify the date on which your appointment as Coroner ended.  
2nd January 2002.

(2) On the 31<sup>st</sup> July 2000 Mr. Stanley Millar (Chief Officer of the Western Health and Social Services Council) wrote seeking a meeting with you in relation to the death of Lucy Crawford (copy letter attached, Ref: 015-011-036).

Please address the following matters:

(a) Did you accede to Mr. Millar's request for a meeting?

I have no record of receiving the letter referred to or of any meeting or conversation with Mr. Millar.

If a meeting took place please answer the following questions:

(i) When and where did the meeting take place?

(ii) Who attended the meeting?

(iii) Did Mr. Millar supply you with any documents before, during or after the meeting? If so, describe the documents which you received from him.

(iv) Please outline what was discussed between you and Mr. Millar at the meeting.

(v) At the meeting, what were you told about the circumstances of Lucy's death? If so, what response did you make to what Mr. Millar told you?

(vi) At the meeting did Mr. Millar ask you to consider whether an Inquest was appropriate? If so, what was your response?

(vii) Did you take any action on foot on your meeting with Mr. Millar? If so, fully outline the steps that you took.

(b) If you did not accede to Mr. Millar's request for a meeting, please address the following matters::

(i) Please outline why did you not agree to meet with Mr. Millar?

See answer to 2 (a) above.

(ii) Did you provide Mr. Millar with reasons for refusing to meet with him? If so, what reasons did you advance to him?

See answer to 2 (a) above.

- (iii) Even though you did not meet with Mr. Millar, did you otherwise discuss with him the circumstances of Lucy's case? If so, please outline the discussion you had, any conclusions you reached, and any action taken on foot of any such discussion.

I have no record nor any recollection of having discussed Lucy Crawford's case with Mr. Millar. She died outside my jurisdiction and therefore I would not have become involved in the matter of her death.

- (c) Whether or not you met with Mr. Millar to discuss Lucy Crawford's case, fully describe the steps that you took, if any, to investigate and determine whether it was appropriate to hold an Inquest in her case.

Lucy Crawford died in the jurisdiction of another Coroner. Therefore I did not investigate the circumstances of her death or enter into any discussions. I had no jurisdiction.

- (d) Did you discuss Lucy's case or Mr. Millar's contact with you with any other person, within or outside of the coronial system? If so, who did you discuss these matters with, outline the nature of your discussions, any conclusions you reached and any action taken on foot of any such discussion.

Lucy Crawford died outside my jurisdiction and her death was not reported to me. I have no record or recollection of any discussions relating to her death or of being contacted by Mr. Millar.

- (e) Please provide the Inquiry with copies of all documentation, howsoever described, arising out of any dealings that you or your office may have had in relation to the case of Lucy Crawford. If you do not personally retain any such documentation please direct the Inquiry to where such documentation is held and may be obtained.

I have no documentation. The death took place in another Coroner's jurisdiction, was not reported to me and I did not create a file.

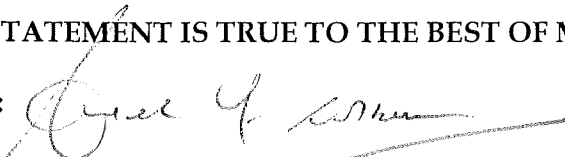
- (3) In a letter which Mr. Millar wrote to HM Coroner for Greater Belfast, Mr. J. Leckey, the 27<sup>th</sup> February 2003 he explained how he had contacted the Coroner's Service after Lucy's death to ask about the arrangement of an Inquest only to be told that this wasn't necessary (copy letter attached, Ref: 013-056-320).

Please clarify whether you advised Mr. Millar that an Inquest was not necessary in relation to the death of Lucy Crawford. If so, explain the factors which you took into account when reaching this conclusion.

I have no record of any correspondence with Mr. Millar in relation to this death. If he contacted the Coroners Service I assume that he contacted the Office of the Coroner who had jurisdiction in the matter. I did not have jurisdiction and had I been contacted I would have directed the person enquiring to the Office of the Coroner who had jurisdiction.

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

Signed:



Dated: 22nd January 2012.