Witness Statement Ref. No. | 343/3

43/3

NAME OF CHILD: Raychel Ferguson

Name: Dr John Damian Gerard O'Hare

Title: Director of Pharmaceutical Services

Present position and institution: Retired previously Head of Pharmacy and Medicines Management Belfast Health and Social Care Trust

Previous position and institution: [As at the time of the child's death] Director of Pharmaceutical Services, Pharmacy Directorate, Royal Group Hospitals Trust ("RGHT")

Membership of Advisory Panels and Committees: [Identify by date and title all of those between January 2000 - present]

See attached

Previous 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:	

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) Please state your qualifications as at 2001 (and kindly provide a copy of your Curriculum Vitae). B.Sc., M.Sc., Ph.D., M.R.Pharm.S., MPSNI See attached
- (2) Please describe your career history before you were appointed Director of Pharmacy.

Previously Chief Pharmacist Ulster Hospitals, Principal Pharmacist Purdysburn Hospital. Staff Pharmacist Masserereene Hospital Antrim and Muckamore Abbey Hospital

- (3) Please provide any and all information regarding your work commitments in the RGHT from the date of your appointment to 2001. See attached
- (4) Please describe the role, function and accountability of your post as at 2001, including those individuals to whom you reported, and who reported to you.

See attached

(5) Was there a written job description for your post in 2001? If so, please provide copy of the same.

See attached

(6) Please identify your predecessor and if applicable, your successor in post.

Predecessor Robert Markwell M.Sc., MPSNI Successor Mrs Rhona Fair M.Sc MPSNI

- (7) In relation to the statement made to the PSNI on 14th March 2006 by Dr. Nesbitt (former Clinical Director in Anaesthesia & Critical Care- Altnagelvin HHSST) in respect of a conversation in June 2001 when he "spoke to Dr. Chisakuta, a Consultant in Paediatric Anaesthesia and Intensive Care in the RBHSC about their [the RBHSC's] use of No.18 solution in post-operative surgical children and he informed me that they had been using precisely the same regime as Altnagelvin Hospital but had changed from No.18 solution six months previously because of concerns about the possibility of low sodium levels. This was also the position in Tyrone County Hospital" (Ref: 095-010-040) please state:
 - (a) Whether the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children (RBHSC) had "changed from No.18 Solution six months previously"; A perusal of the dispensing records of No.18 would indicate that from April 2001 there was a decline in usage.
 - (b) Whether the RBHSC had made any change in its use of Solution 18 in the year preceding

10th June 2001;

Decline from April 2001

(c) Whether and what hospital documentation would record any change in the practice of prescription and use of Solution 18 in the RBHSC in the year preceding 10th June 2001;
 I was unaware of change in practice or prescription.

(d) If such change occurred:

- (i) What was the change; I was not aware of such change
- (ii) When did it occur; April 2001
- (iii) Did such change occur prior to the death of Raychel Ferguson;

yes

- (iv)What were the reasons for the change; I do not know
- (v) Who was responsible for the change; I do not know
- (vi)Were you informed of the change; Not to my knowledge
- (vii) If such a change occurred how was it implemented and by whom;

I do not know

- (viii) Were you aware of a change; No
- (ix) Was the change communicated to any other hospital committees, advisory groups, sub-committees or working parties, either then or subsequently;

I do not recollect such communication

(x) Was the change mentioned at any other hospital committees, advisory groups, subcommittees or working parties, either then or subsequently;

I do not recollect such mention

- (xi) What were the consequences of the change; I do not know
- (xii) Whether any steps were taken to disseminate this information to the wider medical community (if so please detail to whom such information was disseminated, and if not please indicate why not); I was not aware of such dissemination
- (xiii) Whether any steps were taken to disseminate this information to the Altnagelvin Hospital (if so please detail to whom such information was disseminated, and if not please indicate why not); I was not aware of such dissemination
- (xiv) Whether any steps were taken to disseminate this information to the Tyrone

County Hospital (if so please detail to whom such information was disseminated, and if not please indicate why not); I was not aware of such dissemination

- (xv) Whether any steps were taken to disseminate this information to Craigavon Area Hospital (if so please detail to whom such information was disseminated, and if not please indicate why not)? I was not aware of such dissemination
- (8) Please describe the type of records kept in respect of the dispensing of Solution 18 to the RBHSC? All bulk and individual unit dispensing of No.18 solution to RBHSC were recorded on the Pharmacy PILS computer system.
- (9) Please provide such additional comment as you think appropriate. It would be of very considerable assistance if you could also attach any such further document that may be helpful.

Advice and direction regarding prescribing and dispensing to children would now be provided by the British National Formulary for Children. This however did not begin publication until September 2005. Clinical Pharmacy services to RBHSC were restricted by the low levels of staffing.

THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF Signed: Dated: are Ð . 5

CURRICULUM VITAE

NAME:	Dr J D G O'Hare			
PRESENT POSITION:	Former Head of Pharmacy and Medicines Management Belfast Health and Social Care Trust (now retired)			
<u>DEGREES</u> :	B.Sc., Ph.C., M.Sc., Ph.D.,			
APPOINTMENTS				
<u>1978</u>	Co-opted member of the Eastern Health and Social Services Board Area Pharmaceutical Advisory Committee.			
<u> 1979 – 1987</u>	Appointed to the main Committee of the Central Services Agency for the Central Supply of Drugs and Dressings.			
<u> 1979 – 1989</u>	Appointed to the Advisory Panel, to the main Committee of the Central Services Agency for the Central Supply of Drugs and Dressings.			
<u> 1979 – 1990</u>	Honorary Secretary, Eastern Health and Social Services Board, Area Pharmaceutical Advisory Committee.			
<u> 1981 – 1984</u>	Sponsorship organiser and member of the Planning Committee for the United Kingdom Guild of Hospital Pharmacists Weekend School in the University of Ulster, Coleraine 1984.			
<u> 1982 – 1984</u>	Nominated by the Eastern Health and Social Services to membership of Health Education Forum for Northern Ireland.			
<u>1983</u>	Selected by the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland as speaker on Pre-Registration Training in hospitals at the first seminar for tutors.			

APPOINTMENTS (Cont'd)

<u>1984</u>	Lecturer at the Guild of Hospital Pharmacists (NI) Group meetings on the Future of Hospital Pharmacy.
<u> 1986 – 1994</u>	Nominated by the Pharmaceutical Contractors Committee to membership of the Central Pharmaceutical Advisory Committee.
<u> 1986 - 1991</u>	Appointed member of the Eastern Health and Social Services Board Management Development Team.
<u>1986</u>	Elected Vice-Chairman of the Guild of Hospital Pharmacists Northern Ireland Group.
<u> 1987 – 1988</u>	Elected Chairman of the Guild of Hospital Pharmacist Northern Ireland Group.
<u> 1988 – 1989</u>	Participant in the Associate Training Programme for General Management
<u>1989</u>	Co-opted to the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland.
<u> 1989 – 1995</u>	Nominated by the Pharmaceutical Contractors Committee to membership of the National Appeals Panel of the Family Health Services Directorate of the Management Executive.
<u> 1989 – 1995</u>	Nominated by the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland the membership of the Pharmacy Practice Committee of the Eastern Health and Social Services Board.
<u>1989</u>	Member of Infection Control Committee of the Royal Hospital.
<u>1989</u>	Member of the Drug and Therapeutics Committee of The Royal Hospitals.
<u> 1990 – 1997</u>	Elected member of the council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland.
<u> 1993 – 1997</u>	Appointed Chairman of Ethics and Law Committee of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland.
<u> 1993 – 1997</u>	Nominated member of the Postgraduate Pharmaceutical Education and Training Committee for Northern Ireland.

APPOINTMENTS (Cont'd)

<u> 1994 – 1995</u>	Trustee nominated Governor of St Bernard's Primary School, Belfast.
<u> 1994 - 1995</u>	External Assessor for AMSPAR GP Practice Management Course, Belfast Institute for Further and Higher Education.
<u> 1995 -</u>	Department of Education Nominated Governor of St Bernard's Primary School, Belfast.
<u> 1998 -</u>	Chairman – Northern Ireland Computer Users Sub- Group.
<u> 1997 -</u>	Member of the UK Paediatric Chief Pharmacists Group.
<u> 1989 -</u>	Member of the Association of Teaching Hospital Chief Pharmacists.
<u>2000</u> -	Member of the Regional Group on the Prescribing of Specialist Drugs for Northern Ireland.
<u>2000 -</u>	Member of the Prescribing Task Group of the North and West Locality Consortium Total Purchasing Pilot.
<u> 2006 -</u>	Member of the Regional Group on Therapeutic Tendering.
<u>2006 -</u>	Chair of the Regional Group on the prescribing of Specialist Drugs for Northern Ireland.
<u>2008-</u>	Head of Pharmacy and Medicines Management Belfast Health and Social Care Trust

THE ROYAL GROUP OF HOSPITALS AND DENTAL HOSPITAL HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES TRUST

DIRECTORATE OF PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES

JOB SPECIFICATION

TITLE OF POST:

Director of Pharmaceutical Services

LOCATION:

The Royal Hospitals

Essential:

QUALIFICATIONS

- Masters Degree in Pharmacy or equivalent
- Member of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland or eligible for membership
- Postgraduate clinical qualification experience
- Postgraduate Research qualification or evidence experience
- Management qualification or equivalent experience

KEY ATTRIBUTES

- Good communication both oral and written leadership skills
- Involvement in regional or national agenda
- Ability to control drug expenditure
- Ability to manage and develop people
- Ability to manage change
- Ability to negotiate
- Excellent clinical knowledge

EXPERIENCE

- At least 10 years Hospital Pharmacy experience at least 3 years of which have been spent in a Senior Management position.
- Project management skills
- Involvement in the management of strategic plans
- Knowledge of budgetary management
- Knowledge of Primary Health Care Systems

MANAGEMENT SKILLS

- Confident and authoritative inter-personal skills
- Evidence of successfully managing people
- Ability to motivate self and others
- Experience of managing change

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES TRUST

DIRECTORATE OF PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES

JOB DESCRIPTION

JOB TITLE: Director of Pharmaceutical Services

ACCOUNTABILITY: Accountable to the Chief Executive

JOB PURPOSE

- Manages Pharmaceutical Services in the Trust.
- Professionally responsible for providing professional leadership and for ensuring the achievement of required standards of practice.

JOB DUTIES

The Director manages the total provision of Pharmaceutical Services in the Trust including:-

1. Dispensing and Distribution

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Ensuring that prescribed standard and statutory requirements are applied to all procedures.

2. Clinical Services

Implementing the requirements of the way forward circular (HSS) GHS 2/89.

3. Aseptic Dispensing

To ensure that all Aseptic Dispensing in the Trust complies with the requirements of the 1995 Department guidelines "Aseptic Dispensing for NHS Patients".

4. Drug Information

To ensure, in co-operation with the Regional Unit, that staff and patients in the Royal Hospitals Trust have access to accurate and timely Drug Information.

5. Purchasing and Supply

To ensure that: -

- a) Value for money is achieved in all purchases.
- b) That the regulations in regard to purchasing are fully satisfied.
 c) That the Truste present is
- c) That the Trusts protection under Product Liability Legislation and the Consumer Protection Act 1987 is fully safeguarded.

CSDP.

To manage the pharmaceutical satafles and wayes, and Goods and Services budgets in accordance with Trust policy and taking cognisance of constraints.

- To provide regular financial reports on all aspects of drug use in the Trust.
- 8. To ensure that changes in drug use or trends in expenditure are communicated to both the Director of Finance and the Director of Planning and Contracting.
- 9. To participate in the Drugs and Therapeutics Committee and ensure that recommendations are implemented.
- 10. To ensure that the provision of the Medicines Act 1969, The Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, The Guidelines for the Management of Drugs in the Health Service, The Guidance on Licensing Requirements for Trusts 1992 and all other statutory regulations are complied with in all Trust business.
- 11. To maintain and develop the equipment and facilities to ensure compliance with statutory requirements and purchasers prospectuses.
- 12. Monitor the maintenance and development of professional standards, procedures and quality assurance systems.
- 13. Ensure the provision of safe systems of work taking cognisance of Health and Safety, COSHH Legislation and Occupational Health Guidance.

General Management Responsibilities

He/she will:

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review individually at least annually the performance of immediately subordinate staff, provide guidance on personal development requirement and advise and initiate, where appropriate, further training;

ensure that the review of performance identified above is performed for all levels of staff for whom he/she has professional management authority;

review the organisation plan and establishment level of the service for which he/she is responsible to ensure that each is consistent with achieving objectives and recommend changes when appropriate;

delegate appropriate responsibility and authority to the level of staff within his/her control, consistent with effective decision making, while retaining overall responsibility and accountability for results;

participate in the selection and appointment of staff reporting to him/her in accordance with procedures laid down;

provide in-house staff training as required;

im/her;

ensure compliance and implementation of statutory Health and Safety regulations in line with the Trust's Health and Safety Policy.

Note

This job description is an outline of the post as it is currently perceived by the Chief Executive. The job description will be subject to review in the light of changing circumstances and is not intended to be rigid and inflexible, but should be regarded as providing guidelines within the Pharmacy Directorate. This job description will therefore be subject to change in detail and emphasis in the light of development.

THE ROYAL GROUP OF HOSPITALS AND DENTAL HOSPITAL HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES TRUST IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE QUALITY OF SERVICE TO PATIENTS, CLIENTS AND COMMUNITY. MEMBERS OF STAFF ARE EXPECTED AT ALL TIMES TO PROVIDE A CARING SERVICE AND TO TREAT THOSE WITH WHOM THEY COME INTO CONTACT IN A COURTEOUS AND RESPECTFUL MANNER.

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS MUST COMPLY WITH THE ROYAL GROUP OF HOSPITALS AND DENTAL HOSPITAL HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES TRUST'S NO SMOKING POLICY.

THE TRUST IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER. YOU ARE EXPECTED TO ADHERE TO THE TRUST'S EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES POLICY THROUGHOUT THE COURSE OF YOUR EMPLOYMENT.

ALL DUTIES MUST BE CARRIED OUT IN COMPLIANCE WITH TGHE ROYAL HOSPITALS TRUST HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY AND STATUTORY REGULATIONS.

May 1995