

The voice of the Public, Patients and Clients

'HILLTOP'

**Tyrone and Fermanagh Hospital
OMAGH
Co. Tyrone BT79 0NS**

Telephone [REDACTED]

Fax: [REDACTED]

Minicom: [REDACTED]

E-Mail: mreilly [REDACTED]

kloughran [REDACTED]

HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL

5 November 2004

Mr Clive Gowdy
Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
BELFAST
BT4 3SQ

Dear Mr Gowdy

Just minutes before we received your directive to the Council re Records and UTV Insight Programme I had a conversation with Hugh Mills regarding a pre-arranged meeting between Sperrin Lakeland Trust and Western Health and Social Services Council which would discuss the issues raised in the above programme.

In the course of this conversation it became apparent that I need to seek legal advice about the appropriateness of further meetings on this subject and as to the legal implications of being asked not to minute or note such meetings.

I am more confident about the implications of not agreeing to such non recorded meetings from the perspective of upholding the role and independence of this Council but am much less confident on the legal aspect of this.

I know that as four Health Councils we had recently discussed access to legal advice for Councils. We felt it would not always be appropriate to be advised by the CSA who are likely to be advising Trusts possibly on the same matter.

DHSSPS-C Gowdy

001-128-426.

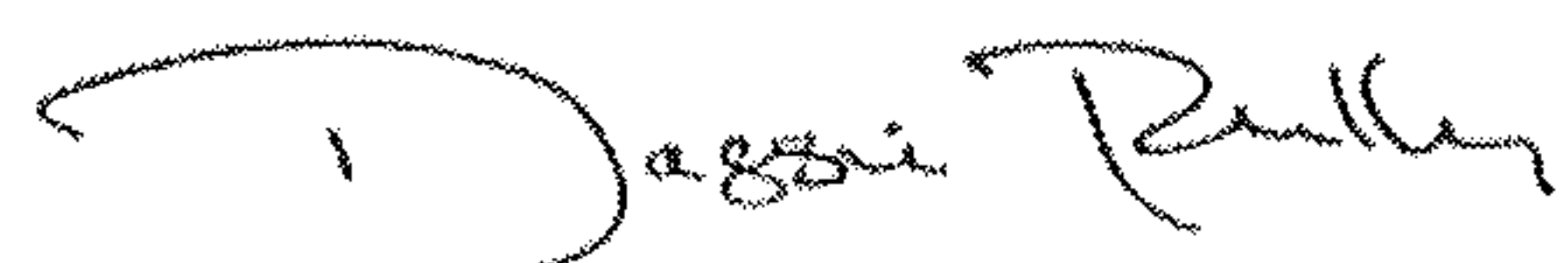
I am aware that there has been a suggestion that Councils have access to the legal services within the Department.

Given the sensitivity of this matter I would be grateful if you could advise me of the steps I should take to secure appropriate legal advice.

I have fully appraised my Chairman Paddy McGowan of my concerns and he has endorsed my writing to you on the matter.

Should you wish to discuss this further with me I am in the office today [REDACTED] or can be contacted on my mobile [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely



Maggie Reilly (Ms)
Chief Officer