



HER MAJESTY'S CORONER

DISTRICT OF GREATER BELFAST

John L Leckey LL.M.
H.M. Coroner
Coroner's Office
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Mr Stanley E Millar
Chief Officer
Western Health & Social Services Council
'HILLTOP'
Tyrone and Fermanagh Hospital
OMAGH
Co Tyrone
BT79 0NS

Your ref: H0003-20.203

3rd March 2003

Dear Mr Millar

LUCY CRAWFORD, DECEASED

I refer to your letter of 27th February and our subsequent telephone conversation.

I have decided the circumstances warrant an independent expert report. I propose to obtain this report from Dr Edward Sumner, Consultant Paediatric Anaesthetist, who gave evidence at the Raychel Ferguson inquest. I have asked him to contact you direct for access to the medical records.

I am arranging to obtain statements from those concerned with the care of Lucy whilst a patient in the Children's Hospital. Please advise me if you will be able to let me have statements from those concerned in the Erne Hospital or whether I would need to approach the hospital direct.

At the time the death was reported to my office a note was made to effect that Dr Michael Curtis of the State Pathologist's Department spoke to Dr Hanrahan of the Children's Hospital. He concluded that a post-mortem was not necessary. That explains the office note which indicates that a Death Certificate was to be issued and that the cause of death was Gastroenteritis. As I now know a post-mortem examination was carried out by Dr Denis O'Hara, Consultant Paediatric Pathologist,

though this was not a coroner's post-mortem. I have now written to Dr O'Hara advising him that it should be treated as such.

I am willing to make available to you a copy of Dr Sumner's report when it is available.

Please advise me if you propose to contact the parents of Lucy advising them of the steps I am now taking.

Yours sincerely



J L LECKEY
HM CORONER FOR GREATER BELFAST