

Mr G Guckian  
Chair  
Altnagelvin HSS Trust  
Altnagelvin Area Hospital  
Glenshane Road  
LONDONDERRY  
BT47 6SB

Trust Board  
Hospital Executive  
Hospital Mgt. Team  
Other: T. Brown  
- FOR ACTION

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RECEIVED  
03 DEC 2004  
Chief Executives Office

Our Ref: JOH-16-2004  
Date: 01 December 2004

For Local Use  
From:  
Copied To: R. McCartney  
DR Nesbitt  
I. Duddy  
Rt.P.

RISK MANAGEMENT  
06 DEC 2004  
OFFICE

Dear Mr Guckian

### INQUIRY INTO HYPONATRAEMIA-RELATED DEATHS

I am writing to you regarding the above Inquiry which was announced recently into the events surrounding and following the deaths of Adam Strain, Lucy Crawford and Raychel Ferguson. I attach a copy of the Terms of Reference and my statement of 18 November. The Inquiry is a statutory Inquiry and the powers are set out in the Health and Personal Social Services (NI) Order 1972, copy attached. Those powers include requiring any person to give evidence or to produce any books or documents which relate to the issues which are under investigation.

In the coming weeks I plan to develop preliminary proposals which will detail how I propose to conduct the Inquiry and these will issue to all interested participants for consultation.

To assist me in identifying the key issues which I may decide to investigate I need to gather notes, documents, records and reports from all available sources. \*

Therefore, I would ask that you arrange for all notes, documents, records and reports relating to Raychel Ferguson to be delivered to the Secretariat, Inquiry into Hyponatraemia-related Deaths, 20 Adelaide Street, Belfast BT2 8GB by 10 December 2004. The papers should be indexed and tabbed. Please liaise with my office regarding the precise arrangements for delivery of the papers. I am happy to accept photocopies of the various documents provided that they are legible, however, originals must be retained and held securely. \*

RF - ALTNAGELVIN

Secretary: Ambrose Owens Deputy Secretary: Sharon Lindsay  
The Inquiry into Hyponatraemia-related Deaths, 3rd Floor, 20 Adelaide Street, Belfast, BT2 8GB  
Email: inquiry@ihrdni.org Website: www.ihrdni.org Tel: 028 9051 7038 Fax: 028 9051 7237

021-004-015

I also require the names and contact details for all individuals who were involved in the care and treatment of Raychel Ferguson during her period in the Altnagelvin Hospital and the names and contact details of those individuals who were involved in any subsequent actions such as reviews or inquiries relating to her death. Should this include personnel who are no longer employed by your Trust then I would ask that, if possible, you also provide the appropriate contact details if you know them or, if you don't, the last known address.

It would be very helpful if you could identify the roles which each of these individuals played and if you could list them chronologically eg medical and nursing staff on duty at time of admission, medical staff in intensive care unit, personnel involved in internal review etc.

I should add that in order to assist witnesses, and their representatives, in the preparation of their evidence to the Inquiry I may have to make available to them copies of documents provided to the Inquiry and to place such copies on the Inquiry website.

I am also copying this letter to Mr A Maginness, Director of Legal Services, Central Services Agency.

Yours sincerely

*John O'Hara*

**MR JOHN O'HARA QC**  
**Chairman**

Encs

cc Mr A Maginness