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RGH/I/65/GB

OUR REF:

A.49/01/19/1

YOUR REF:

31 January 2003

Mr A P Walby FRCS Ed
Associate Medical Director
Litigation Management Office
Royal Group of Hospitals & Dental Hospital
Health & Social Services Trust
Royal Victoria Hospital
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Dear Peter

RACHEL FERGUSON DECEASED

I refer to previous correspondence and would advise you that I represented the Trust at the Hearing of this Inquest on the 5th instant. As you know it has been listed for 3 days and whilst, the Trusts involvement ended on the 5th, I believe it to be essential to ensure that a watching Brief was retained on the second and subsequent dates.

Dr Crean provided evidence as per his Deposition, and, he was not subjected to any cross-examination by the representatives. I should have to say however in the opening, HM Coroner did indicate, that the letter sent by Dr Campbell (Chief Medical Officer) did refer to two cases involving hyponatraemia and he also indicated that Dr Sumner who gave evidence as an Independent Expert was also involved in the first case. I cross-examined Dr Sumner in relation to the Adam Strain case and I asked him to distinguish and differentiate between the two cases and in particular the following matters:

RF - ROYAL

1. *In the Adam Strain case the incident occurred intra-operatively.*
2. *The procedure involved was complex and difficult.*
3. *Cerebral pyofusion was also detailed as a contributory cause of death.*

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George D. H. Brangam Fiona E. E. Bagnall

Uel A. Crothers

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The coroner was mightily impressed by the work undertaken by the Working Group providing advice in relation to hyponatraemia and I do not believe that there is likely to be any difficulties associated for the Trust within his finding. I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



George D H Brangam

GB/KMcC/5-2-03