

Litigation Management Office, 4th Floor, Bostock House, RVH - Tel: [REDACTED]

Our Ref: A.49/04/33/AS/PSNI

14th March 2006

D/S William R Cross
PSNI
Fermanagh DCU
48 Queen Street
ENNISKILLEN
BT74 4JR

Dear

D/S Cross

Re: Adam Strain (deceased)

Thank you for your letter requesting information regarding blood sampling for electrolytes prior to Adam Strain's operation.

When Adam was admitted the night before surgery, blood was taken for analysis (including electrolytes) at 9.30pm, and intravenous fluids were prescribed by Dr. Jackie Cartmill (O'Hara witness statement 003 dated 9/10/05). The intravenous fluids were erected by Dr. J. Larkin. S/N Catherine Murphy noted that the drip giving the fluids stopped (tissued) at 1.30am and she so advised Dr. Cartmill. As S/N Murphy notes in her O'Hara Witness Statement 005 dated 18/7/05, although the notes record reinsertion of the cannula at 5am it is felt that this was not successful because of difficulty gaining intravenous access and Adam went to theatre with no IV access having been obtained.

There is no record of attempts to take blood for electrolytes after 9.30pm the night before surgery until blood sampling was undertaken in the operating theatre. The episodes Adam's mother is referring to are more likely to have been the attempts to give intravenous fluids rather than attempts to take blood. Unfortunately the doctors who you refer to as an SHO and a Registrar have not been recorded in the notes. The possibilities are junior medical paediatric staff who were working under Dr. M. Savage or junior anaesthetic staff working under Dr. R. Taylor. I note you have interviewed Dr. Savage and from his draft statement I do not see that he has identified the doctors. I understand you are to interview Dr. Taylor in due course and he may know who these doctors were. I have not seen such doctors identified in the records of the Inquest or in any of the Statements I coordinated on behalf of the O'Hara Inquiry.

Please advise me if you think I could assist further.

Yours sincerely

A P Walby

A P Walby FRCS Ed
Associate Medical Director

AS - PSNI