

Dr Alison Armour  
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BT12 6BS

13 December 1995

Dear

**RE: ADAM STRAIN, DECEASED**

On Monday last I had a very useful meeting with Dr Murnaghan and two anaesthetists from the Children's Hospital, Drs Gaston and Lyons.

Drs Gaston and Lyons felt that it would be most important to obtain a paediatric anaesthetic opinion and they pointed out that Dr John Alexander has little if any experience in that very specialist field. Also, they made the point that their considered view is that the death had nothing to do with anaesthetics. I get the impression from something Dr Denis O'Hara said in passing that your findings of gross cerebral oedema could be explainable by the time the child was on the ventilator. All agreed that this was an immensely complex case. Our meeting was a most amicable one and I agreed to obtain the opinion of a consultant paediatric anaesthetist. Dr Edward Sumner of the Hospital for Children, NHS Trust, Great Ormond Street, London, WC1N 3JH has agreed to provide me with an opinion. His telephone number is [REDACTED]. The extension of the anaesthetics secretary is [REDACTED]. If, as in the case of Professor Berry, you forward to me a copy of your letter to Dr Sumner I would then write to him confirming that I wished him to act and that I would be responsible for his fee. (Incidentally as yet I have not received a copy of your letter to Professor Berry).

I feel you would be in a better position than I would to set out the complexities in this case.

I have spoken to Dr Sumner on the telephone and he requested that he be sent copies of all the notes - everything you have. If possible before Christmas as he would wish to go over the papers over the holiday period.

If you have any queries please let me know.

Kind Regards

Yours sincerely

**J L LECKEY**  
**HM CORONER FOR GREATER BELFAST**