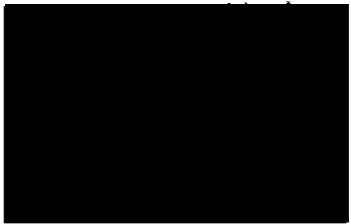


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Dr. John Burton MB BCH BAO, B Leg Sc, LL M



Home phone: [Redacted]

Fax [Redacted]

Mobile phone: [Redacted]



To: Detective Chief Superintendent Philip Wright, MSSc,

Re: *Assistance to PSNI investigation of Adam Strain's death*

Dear Chief Superintendent,

I understand that you are currently in charge of criminal investigations into the deaths of Raychel Ferguson and Adam Strain.

I wish to make myself available to your investigating officers should they consider that I have any useful input to their inquiries. I am a graduate from Queen's University Belfast, initially in Medicine (1973) and most recently in Law (2003) with LL M (2004). I am continuing my post-graduate law studies, researching for my PhD. In my capacity as an independent medical law researcher I have spent some time analysing the medical documentation which was generated before and after the death of Adam Strain.

If your officers would wish me to speak to them I will be happy to meet with them at a venue of their choosing. Naturally I am reluctant to go into too much detail over the phone, except to arrange a time and date.

I have enclosed my correspondence with the Northern Ireland Court Service and Mr. John J Leckey, the Coroner for Greater Belfast, so that that you may understand something of how I got involved.

I will be in England from 19th to 28th August and in Germany from 2nd to 7th September.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. John Burton LL M

ADAM STRAIN

4TH JANUARY 1996

Miss Strain and her brother-in-law called to see me at 2.00 pm and spent about an hour with me. I went over all the investigations that were carried out and I promised to send Miss Strain a copy of each report as it arrived with me. I said that I would ask Dr Savage from RBHSC if he would be willing to explain each to Miss Strain. I said that if all the reports were in by the end of January it may be possible to hold the Inquest before Easter. I said that in medical inquests of this nature a major problem was finding a date that suited all the medical witnesses.

Miss Strain advised me that Dr Armour was not correct in stating that Adam had had 5 funduplications. He had 5 reimplantations of the ureters between 2nd November 1991 and January 1992 and one funduplication on 16th March 1992.

Miss Strain told me that she had been present at the operation from 7am onwards. She said that she was annoyed that Dr Taylor had given an epidural and also that the surgeon was Mr Brown. Mr Brown had been involved with the previous surgery in connection with the ureters and this had not been successful. With regard to the epidural, one had been given at the time of a previous procedure and had not been successful. During surgery she had been told that the bladder was not emptying properly and it might be necessary for her to catheterise Adam twice daily. Miss Strain had told me that there were 10 files of medical notes and she wanted to know if these had been made available to the various experts. I said I would check this out with Dr Armour.

Subsequently I spoke to Dr Savage and he agreed to explain the reports to Miss Strain provided that Dr Murnaghan was happy and there were no medico-legal reasons to suggest otherwise.

Subsequently I spoke to Dr Armour. She had not sent copies of all 10 files to all the experts due to the huge number of records involved. I suggested that she should write to each saying that these files were in existence and would be available via Dr Murnaghan. She agreed to. Also I told her what Miss Strain had said about the 5 funduplications. She noted this but did not feel it made any difference.