



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

Dr Edward Sumner MA, BM, BCh, FRCA
Consultant Paediatric Anaesthetist



24 July 2005

Dear Dr Sumner

Re Adam Strain

Thank you for agreeing to review the circumstances surrounding Adam's death and to prepare a report for the PSNI.

Following ongoing concern over the death of Adam and other children in Northern Ireland police have decided to investigate the circumstances of Adam's death. This may involve interviewing doctors involved in his treatment. It appears to police at present that the fluid regime precipitated Adam's death and that Dr Taylor was primarily responsible for administering the fluids. Our request to you at this stage is to consider the roles of all the doctors involved at the time when Adam was receiving the fluids which led to his death and advise police if doctors other than Dr Taylor ought to have been aware that:

- a. Adam was receiving too much fluid, and should any doctor other than Dr Taylor have taken action in this regard, and
- b. no ongoing monitoring of Adam's electrolyte balances was occurring and should any doctor other than Dr Taylor have taken action in this regard.

If, as you read these papers, you have any other observations which you believe would be relevant to our investigations, we would be grateful if you would share these with us.

I have obtained a copy of your report to the Coroner, Mr Leckey, for the Inquest on Adam and it is therefore not necessary for you to repeat the contents of that report.

I provide the following documents for your consideration. They have been obtained from the Coroner's file and were numbered by police in the original copy file. While the numbering of the pages as provided to you is not consecutive, it is adequate for referral purposes and therefore I have not sought to alter it:

1. Statement of Dr Keane, p3.
2. Statement of Dr Savage, pp4-5.
3. Statement of Dr Taylor, p6-12.
4. Deposition of Constable Tester.
5. Deposition of Debra Strain, mother, pp14-16.
6. Deposition of Dr Armour, pp17-19.
7. Deposition of Dr Sumner, pp20-25.
8. Deposition of Dr Alexander, pp26-28.
9. Deposition of Dr Keane, pp29-30.

Fermanagh District Command Unit

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Billy.Cross [REDACTED]



1. Deposition of Dr Savage, pp31-33.
2. Deposition of Dr Taylor, pp34-40.
3. Report of Dr Alexander, pp41-44.
4. Report of Dr Sumner, pp50-61.
5. Verdict on Inquest, p76-77.
6. Report of Autopsy, p78-85.
7. Charts re Adam Strain (from hospital notes?), pp115-128.
8. Letter from Debra Strain (28/5/96), p150.
9. Report on Equipment, p167-170.
10. Report of Professor Berry, p175-178.
11. Report of Dr Gibson, p180.
12. Letter of Debra Strain (6/2/96), pp193-194.
13. Coroner's note re meeting with Debra Strain, p212.

If there are any documents not provided which you believe may exist and would be of benefit to you, please inform me and I will endeavour to obtain them.

If you could advise me when your deliberations on these documents are complete and you are in a position to write a report, we could agree the most expeditious means to proceed. This death is the subject of a Public Inquiry, whose proceedings may be impeded by the police investigation, and therefore there is a burden on the PSNI to proceed expeditiously.

If I can be of any assistance please contact me at the telephone number or email address on this letter, or on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,

William R Cross
Detective Sergeant