

letter.

Dear

re death of Adam Shain in November 1995.

Following the death of the above child in the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children 15 stained microscope slides and clinical notes were sent, at the request of the HM Coroner for Greater Belfast to Professor Berry who was then working in your Department. Professor Berry has very recently confirmed to me that these slides may still be stored at Bristol.

There is currently a police investigation into the circumstances of Adam's death, and a Public Inquiry. It is important to the police that we establish urgently if these slides and other associated materials still exist. If they exist we would require to take everything into police possession at once to allow for possible examination by other experts. Professor Berry has advised that we should consider doing this.

Can I ask you to address the following points:

1. ~~Do~~ Are there any microscope slides, ~~or~~ reports associated with this examination, other tissue samples, clinical notes stored in your department which relate

to the death of Adam Shain?

2. If such do exist, please ensure they are not destroyed but retained until police can take possession of them.

any such items

3. If police are to remove ~~them~~<sup>any</sup> from your possession ~~is this~~ with your assistance and consent, is there any authorisation which you would first request? For example, I can provide the consent of Adam's mother, but do you require authorisation from the Coroner?

4. If police are to take possession of such items, can you indicate the appropriate person ~~to~~ with whom we should liaise. This person should be able to state to police in writing the nature of the material, its origin and its conditions of storage while in your possession. A telephone number or email address would be of great help.

5. If police are to take possession of any such items, does its transport and storage thereafter require any specific conditions, such as freezing?

6. Can you indicate to police ~~the~~ the size of the material which they are seizing, to assist with transport arrangements?

7. If such items no longer exist, ~~can we~~ please ~~have~~ ~~that~~ confirm <sup>that</sup> in writing. I would request that such confirmation would address the following points:

- a) the material once held is identified & described
- b) the date of destruction, if known, is stated
- c) the person who authorised the destruction is identified.

- d) the person who destroyed it is identified,  
e) that ~~the details~~ you enclose any policies or procedures in existence relating to the storage and/or destruction of such items.

I am grateful for your assistance in this matter. Should this material still exist, it is possible that police will have to submit it to an expert for examination and this will delay the conclusion of the investigation. This has implications for the family, for all those involved in the investigation and for those awaiting the public inquiry. I would therefore ~~appreciate~~ request that you attend to this at your earliest convenience.

If I can be of further assistance please contact me at the ~~same~~ postal or email addresses below, or on 

( ) Yours faithfully

W. R. Cross  
D/gk.