

D234.

Ms B Conlon
Inquiry into Hyponatraemia Related Deaths in N Ireland

8 December 2008

Dear Ms Conlon

Re Adam Strain

In response to the matters raised at our meeting on Thursday 4 December 2008 I can reply as follows.

1. None of the interviews with Doctors O'Connor, Webb or Mr McLaughlin was taped.
2. When I interviewed Dr O'Connor on 12 April 2006 I recorded the initial part of the statement as information offered by Dr O'Connor. This part of the statement followed the content of a statement already prepared by Dr O'Connor for the Public Inquiry. I then wished to have her explain specific points which I felt were not covered earlier in the statement or which needed to be explained for a lay person. The questions which I asked were not prepared in advance and sent to Dr O'Connor, but asked of her at the time. As such they were informal, but asked to determine:
 - a) Whether Dr O'Connor may have been in theatre for a prolonged period and therefore was more likely to have important evidence re the progress of the operation.
 - b) If Dr O'Connor was aware of the elevated CVP readings, and if any discussion had taken place in respect of them.
 - c) What significance was attached to her note that the kidney was "bluish".

3. My interview with Dr Webb on 28 April 2006 was conducted as that of Dr O'Connor and my specific questions were put for the same purposes. In this case, from the answers, I wished to confirm:
 - a) That Dr Webb wrote the letter marked WRC10.
 - b) The nature and purpose of brain stem tests.

4. My interview with Mr McLaughlin on 2 May 2006 was conducted as that of Dr O'Connor and my specific questions were put for the same purposes. From his answers I can state that these questions sought to confirm:
 - a) That Mr McLaughlin was aware of a report marked WRC70 and that he concurred with its content.
 - b) My understanding of the equipment used and to record this for others. It was my intention to have sufficient understanding to deal with the equipment fully in a suspect interview.

5. I wish to rectify an error in the statement of Dr Alison Armour (page 2 of her statement). She refers to an article which she provided to me and I marked PJM10, not RJM10 as is recorded. This refers to the system used by Detective Constable PJ Monaghan who was assisting me in that investigation.

I trust this clarification is satisfactory.

If I can be of further assistance please contact me.

Yours sincerely

William R Cross D/Sergeant