



18

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3 April 2006

Mrs Alison Headford
Dept. of Histopathology
Level 9
Bristol Royal Infirmary
Upper Maudlin Street
Bristol
BS2 8HW

Dear Mrs Headford,

RE DEATH OF ADAM STRAIN 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 HM Coroner for Greater Belfast to Professor Berry who was then working in your Department. There is currently a police investigation into the circumstances of Adam's death, and a Public Inquiry. In the course of the police investigation I have spoken to Professor Berry and he advised me that these slides might still be stored at Bristol.

Your colleague, Nouruja Rahman, has confirmed to me today that the slides are retained in your Department. I am grateful for her urgent attention to my request, as it is important that we take everything into police possession at once to allow for possible examination by other experts, as Professor Berry has advised.

I would ask you to address the following points, acknowledging that your colleague Ms Rahman has answered some of the points by telephone, but it is best that I have the details confirmed in writing:

1. Are there any microscope slides, reports associated with their examination, other tissue samples, clinical notes stored in your department which relate to the death of Adam Strain?
2. If such do exist, please ensure they are not destroyed but retained until police can take possession of them.
3. If police are to recover any such items from your possession with your assistance and consent, is there any authorisation that you would first request? For

Fermanagh District Command Unit

48 Queen Street, ENNISKILLEN, BT74 7JR Web: www.psnl.police.uk

Tel: [REDACTED] Fax: [REDACTED] E-mail: fermanagh@psni.police.uk

Billy.Cross@psni.police.uk





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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 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 their transport and storage thereafter require any specific conditions, such as freezing?
6. Can you indicate to police the size of the material which they are seizing, to assist with transport arrangements, e.g. can one person carry it onto a plane?
7. If such items were once in your possession but are now destroyed, please confirm that in writing. I would request that such confirmation would address the following points:
 - (a) The material once held is identified and described.
 - (b) The date of destruction, if know, is stated.
 - (c) The person who authorised the destruction is identified.
 - (d) The person who destroyed it is identified.
 - (e) That 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. It is possible that police will have to submit the material which your department retains to an expert for examination and this will delay the conclusion of our investigation. This has implications for the family, for all those involved in the investigation and for those awaiting the Public Inquiry. I would therefore request that you attend to this at your earliest convenience.

If I can be of further assistance please contact me at the postal or email addresses below, or on [REDACTED]

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'William R. Cross'.

**WILLIAM R CROSS
D/SERGEANT**

Fermanagh District Command Unit

48 Queen Street, ENNISKILLEN, BT74 7JR Web: www.psnipolice.uk

Tel: [REDACTED] Fax: [REDACTED] E-mail: fermanagh@psni.police.uk

Billy.Cross [REDACTED]



204

Nourya



T8

Alison

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Form 49/1

POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND



FACSIMILE MESSAGE

To Histopathology Dept

Address Bridge Road INVERHAWK

Fax. No. [Redacted]

Date/Time 3/4/06 1625

For Attention of/Message

Ms Nourya Rahman

email :

Document from CASE UNIT

Sender's address PSNI, ENNISKILLEN

Sent by Billy Cross

Number of pages 1+2

Fax. No. [Redacted]

In the event of poor copy telephone [Redacted]

MESSAGE CONFIRMATION

04/04/2006 16:53

DATE	S.R-TIME	DISTANT STATION ID	MODE	PAGES	RESULT
04/04	00'59"	[REDACTED]	TX	03	OK 0000

04/04/2006 16:52

NO.108 001

Nourya.

Form 49/1

POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND



FACSIMILE MESSAGE

To HISTOPATHOLOGY DEPT
Address BRISTOL ROAD INVERMAY
Fax. No. [REDACTED] Date/Time 3/4/06 1625
For Attention of/Message

Ms Nourya Rahman

encl : :