

004

T29

CROSS Billy

From: NICHOLL Tara
Sent: 10 March 2006 12:39
To: CROSS Billy
Subject: : FW: :

Billy,

All fine. You've been busy!
Tara

-----Original Message-----

From: DUNLOP Desiree
Sent: 10 March 2006 11:53
To: NICHOLL Tara
Subject: :



letters-to walby -
10.03-06.do...

I have saved all these under each other Tara, just take note of the one starting police are aware from the papas available to them that etc.

Desiree

Mr A P Walby FRCS Ed
Associate Medical Director
Litigation Management Office
Royal Victoria Hospital
4th Floor
Bostock House
Grosvenor Road
BELFAST
BT12 6BA

Dear Dr Walby

RE: ADAM STRAIN

The documentation which the PSNI have received in the course of the current investigation into Adam's death in November 1995 indicates that an attempt was made by a junior doctor to take blood on the morning of the operation for electrolytes. This attempt was unsuccessful.

Adam's mother has stated that two doctors attempted to take blood – firstly a SHO and secondly a Registrar.

Can I ask that these two doctors are identified to us by name and with contact details as we would proceed to interview them as witnesses.

Yours sincerely

WILLIAM R CROSS
D/SERGEANT

Fermanagh District Command Unit
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ROYAL HOSPITALS

Litigation Management Office, 4th Floor, Bostock House, RVH - Tel: [REDACTED]

Our Ref: A.49/04/33/AS/PSNI

14th March 2006

D/S William R Cross
PSNI
Fermanagh DCU
48 Queen Street
ENNISKILLEN
BT74 4JR

Dear *D/S Cross*

Re: Adam Strain (deceased)

Thank you for your letter requesting information regarding blood sampling for electrolytes prior to Adam Strain's operation.

When Adam was admitted the night before surgery, blood was taken for analysis (including electrolytes) at 9.30pm, and intravenous fluids were prescribed by Dr. Jackie Cartmill (O'Hara witness statement 003 dated 9/10/05). The intravenous fluids were erected by Dr. J. Larkin. S/N Catherine Murphy noted that the drip giving the fluids stopped (tissued) at 1.30am and she so advised Dr. Cartmill. As S/N Murphy notes in her O'Hara Witness Statement 005 dated 18/7/05, although the notes record reinsertion of the cannula at 5am it is felt that this was not successful because of difficulty gaining intravenous access and Adam went to theatre with no IV access having been obtained.

There is no record of attempts to take blood for electrolytes after 9.30pm the night before surgery until blood sampling was undertaken in the operating theatre. The episodes Adam's mother is referring to are more likely to have been the attempts to give intravenous fluids rather than attempts to take blood. Unfortunately the doctors who you refer to as an SHO and a Registrar have not been recorded in the notes. The possibilities are junior medical paediatric staff who were working under Dr. M. Savage or junior anaesthetic staff working under Dr. R. Taylor. I note you have interviewed Dr. Savage and from his draft statement I do not see that he has identified the doctors. I understand you are to interview Dr. Taylor in due course and he may know who these doctors were. I have not seen such doctors identified in the records of the Inquest or in any of the Statements I coordinated on behalf of the O'Hara Inquiry.

Please advise me if you think I could assist further.

Yours sincerely

A P Walby

A P Walby FRCS Ed
Associate Medical Director

Mr A P Walby FRCS Ed
Associate Medical Director
Litigation Management Office
Royal Victoria Hospital
4th Floor
Bostock House
Grosvenor Road
BELFAST
BT12 6BA

Dear Dr Walby

RE ADAM STRAIN

Further to my telephone call and email of 9 March 2006 to your personal assistant, Ms Amanda Lennon, I request that you, where possible, provide contact details for the following people who we wish to interview as witnesses:

1. Dr Webb, who conducted the brain stem tests.
2. Dr Cartmill, who prescribed the pre-operative fluids.
3. Dr Murnaghan, who liased with the Coroner.
4. Dr Gaston, who liased with the Coroner.
5. Dr Lyons, who liased with the Coroner.
6. Dr Gibson, who reported on Adam's death and two other deaths.
7. Mr B McLaughlin, who tested the theatre equipment.
8. Mr Wilson, who assisted Mr B Loughlin.

It is my hope that having interviewed those above, our interviewing of witnesses will be almost conducted and that there will be a decreasing need for me to impose on you in this way.

Yours sincerely

WILLIAM R CROSS
D/SERGEANT

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ROYAL HOSPITALS

Litigation Management Office, 4th Floor, Bostock House, RVH - Tel: [REDACTED]

Our Ref: A.49/04/33/AS/PSNI

13th March 2006

D/S William R Cross
PSNI
Fermanagh DCU
48 Queen Street
ENNISKILLEN
BT74 4JR

Dear D/S Cross

Re: Adam Strain (deceased)

I refer to the above named and your recent telephone conversation with Amanda Lennon with regards to setting up further interviews. I list below the contact details of the individuals you wish to interview:

1. Dr David Webb, Consultant Paediatric Neurologist, Our Lady's Hospital, Crumlin, DUBLIN 12 (Tel: [REDACTED] 01-6011);
2. Dr Jackie Cartmill, [REDACTED] 01-6011;
3. Mr J Wilson, Left RVH January 2000 - last known address: [REDACTED]
4. Dr Morrell Lyons - currently trying to trace
5. Dr George Murnaghan, can be contacted via Amanda Lennon
6. Dr Joe Gaston, can be contacted via Amanda Lennon
7. Dr Fiona Gibson, can be contacted via Amanda Lennon
8. Mr B McLaughlin, can be contacted via Amanda Lennon

I am currently trying to obtain a Nursing and Midwifery Council pin number for Staff Nurse J Mathewson and will return to you when I have any further information.

If I can be of any further assistance in this matter, please let me know.

Yours sincerely

A P Walby

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Associate Medical Director

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Dear Dr Walby

RE STAFF NURSE JANICE MATTHEWSON

In the course of our investigation into the death of Adam Strain in November 1995 we have been informed that the above-named person was present in theatre as a "runner", assisting Staff Nurse Popplestone.

I am informed that SN Matthewson left the employment of the hospital before 2000. I would request that you furnish me, if possible, with the correct name, as there is a dispute as to the spelling, with a personal identification number for her and with any contact details which you may have.

Yours sincerely

**WILLIAM R CROSS
D/SERGEANT**

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Mr A P Walby FRCS Ed
Associate Medical Director
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Dear Dr Walby

RE DEATH OF ADAM STRAIN

Police are aware from the papers available to them that following the death of Adam in November 1995 an examination of the theatre equipment was undertaken by Messrs McLaughlin and Wilson, and that Dr Fiona Gibson reported on this.

Police would like to establish:

1. If an internal review of the circumstances of Adam's death was undertaken by the hospital, with or without external assistance, prior to the Inquest.
2. If the examinations leading to the report of Dr Gibson were part of such a Review.
3. If records exist of such a Review, and if so, that they be made available to police.

Yours sincerely

WILLIAM R CROSS
D/SERGEANT

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Our Ref: A.49/04/33/AS/PSNI

14th March 2006

D/S William R Cross
PSNI
Fermanagh DCU
48 Queen Street
ENNISKILLEN
BT74 4JR

C
Dear D/S Cross

Re: Adam Strain (deceased)

Thank you for your letter requesting information regarding the inspection of theatre equipment.

1. Internal Review

Dr. Armour, State Pathologist for the case, had raised concerns regarding equipment (HM Coroner's note, O'Hara Website ref. 011-029-140, 141). H.M. Coroner requested an inspection from Dr. Murnaghan (059-073-166) and this was carried out by Mr. McLaughlin & Mr. Wilson (059-068-157-160).

2. Dr. Gibson's Report

Dr. Gibson's report (059-069-161-162) was the review, and identified no equipment fault relevant to the case, or anything linking three deaths.

3. The Review

The Review comprises 059-068-157-160 and 059-069-161-162 and was forwarded to H.M. Coroner.

I hope this covers the information you require.

Yours sincerely

A P Walby

A P Walby FRCS Ed
Associate Medical Director