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3rd February 2005

Mr J L Leckey LL.M.
HM Coroner for Greater Belfast
Coroner's Office
Courthouse
Old Town Hall Building
80 Victoria Street
Belfast BT1 3GL

08 FEB 2005

Dear John

Re: Claire Roberts, Deceased – NPPM 114/96

Thank you for your correspondence.

I have reviewed the pathological findings in the case. It seems that Mr Walby has referred the case to you because there is indication that hyponatraemia may have played a part in the death. The cerebral oedema (brain swelling) that was present may have many causes, one of which is hyponatraemia. The autopsy did not exclude this as a cause of the brain swelling nor did it show any specific findings (structural changes) to make the diagnosis of hyponatraemia.

I am unclear from the letter as to whether it is thought that the hyponatraemia was a primary factor in this case, ie caused the brain swelling, or was secondary to the brain swelling.

I understand that this case has gone for expert review and I would be happy to be of any further assistance.

Yours sincerely



Brian Herron
Consultant Neuropathologist

097-003-004

CR - PSNI