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6 March 2007

John L. Leckey LL.M.
Senior Coroner for Northern Ireland
May's Chambers
73 May Street
Belfast
BT1 3JL

Dear Mr Leckey

Re Death of Claire Roberts, 23 October 1996.

You may recall that police attended the Inquest into Claire's death which you held in May 2006 as part of our wider interest in hyponatraemia-related deaths in Northern Ireland. Police have not yet decided whether they will commence a full investigation into the circumstances surrounding Claire's death. However, in making this decision we feel it would be helpful to re-examine the tissues prepared for the original post-mortem. I have identified an expert in London who will consider doing this. I have spoken to Dr Herron at the Royal Group of Hospitals and he has confirmed to me today that such tissues are still retained at the Royal. In order for police to take possession of these for the purpose stated, I request that you forward to me an authorisation which I can present to the Royal Group of Hospitals, permitting them to release any tissues in their possession related to the post-mortem on Claire Roberts.

If it assists, the reference number for the post-mortem is NPPM 114/96 and communication from your office to Dr Herron has used the reference A. 49/04/35/J.

Yours sincerely

William R Cross
Detective Sergeant

CR - PSNI

097-010-014

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