

STRICTLY PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

1/6/8

30 May 1996

Dr George A Murnaghan
Director of Medical Administration
Royal Group of Hospitals & Dental Hospital
Health & Social Services Trust
Royal Victoria Hospital
Grosvenor Road
BELFAST BT12 6BA

Dear Dr Murnaghan

ADAM STRAIN - DECEASED

I refer to recent meeting with yourself, Mr Savage, and Dr Taylor concerning this Inquest which has been listed for Hearing by the Coroner on 18 June 1996.

Messrs Francis Hanna & Company, Solicitors, are now on record on behalf of the family, not only have they indicated that they have an interest in relation to the Inquest proceedings, but they have also indicated, that this matter is likely to proceed by way of litigation. We have already identified a number of issues which are likely to be capable of creating difficulties for us at the Inquest, and in particular, I have to draw to your attention at this stage, the fact that the report prepared by Dr Sumner will have been made available to the Solicitors acting on behalf of Ms Strain and it is highly likely, that the clinicians, and in particular, Dr Taylor will be closely examined in relation to some of the issues flagged up by Dr Sumner.

The scales are to some extent balanced by the report which has been prepared for the Coroner by Dr Alexander, and I believe it is important, that prior to the Inquest, our witnesses, and again particularly Dr Taylor carefully and critically examine both reports viz Dr Sumner's report and Dr Alexander's report and indicate in respect of each of the reports, those areas upon which there is disagreement.

Given the complexities of this case, and the particular anxieties of all concerned, I believe a further consultation nearer the time of Inquest would be helpful, and I believe that the views expressed by Mr Savage in relation to the attitude which we should adopt in respect of this matter are entirely correct and responsible in that, we should acknowledge, that everyone concerned in the care of this child was devastated by his death and that where possible, answers will be provided to the queries raised by the Solicitors on behalf of the next of kin.

The essential issue of course relates to the fluids which were given to the child, and I know that with retrospect, Mr Savage feels the child may have received excessive fluids, I presume that Mr Savage will hold to that view if asked at the Inquest, and again, I believe it is of critical importance, that we obtain Dr Taylor's specific instructions on that point.

Finally, I should be grateful if you would arrange to let me have sight of a copy of all of the notes which relate to treatment given to the deceased in the 24 hours immediately preceding his death.

Yours sincerely

Brangam, Bagnall & Co



GB/MS