

Dr Andrew Sando - 17/10/05

9/15
25/1~~Response to statement of Mr Alan Roberts circulated 3/10/05.~~

Clearly I am unable to respond to some of Mr Roberts' comments. However I should like to emphasize that I was very concerned regarding Claire's level of consciousness on the morning of 22/10/96. This prompted the urgent neurology referral. I have also stated that I thought a CT scan of brain may be appropriate. At the time this required the sanction of a consultant neurologist.

My immediate worries for Claire were probably allayed to some degree by Dr Webb's assessment. The initial serum sodium result did not seem out of keeping with Claire's presentation. Indeed this was and remains quite a common finding in many hospitalized children. We do not know at what time the second test of electrolytes was requested or taken. Claire had at least one further intravenous cannula inserted before 5pm. This is often when blood samples are taken in children (to avoid another needle). With hindsight, further investigations may well have drawn attention to sodium loss or fluid retention.

I have a clear recollection of quite lengthy discussions with Claire's mother on 22/10/05. Although this was as much to help me understand Claire's condition I believe that I also explained my concerns whilst avoiding alarm. I would have deferred to the senior doctor in attendance for more definitive counselling.

(on a request - as for 1st statement)

Hill Commission has asked me to comment on Mr Alan Roberts letter
29/9/05
of 2/10/05