

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

STATEMENT OF: ANDREW SANDS, REGISTERED MEDICAL PRACTITIONER
Name Rank

AGE OF WITNESS (if over 21 enter "over 21"): OVER 21

NOT SIGNED IN POLICE OFFICER'S PRESENCE

TO BE COMPLETED
WHEN THE
STATEMENT HAS
BEEN WRITTEN

I declare that this statement consisting of 1 pages, each signed by me is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence preliminary enquiry or at the trial of any person, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have written or stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated this 10th day of NOVEMBER

SIGNATURE OF MEMBER by whom
statement was recorded or received

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS

Re: **Claire Roberts (deceased)** DOB: 10/01/87

I am a registered medical practitioner and consultant in paediatric cardiology. I graduated from the Queen's University Belfast on 1st July 1992. My professional qualifications are MPhil, MB, BCh, BAO, MRCP.

H M Coroner has asked me to comment on Mr Alan Roberts' letter of 29th September 2005.

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.

Form 38/36
(Plain)

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