

Our Ref: INQ T50/9/15.ds Date: 3 December 2002

**STRICTLY PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL**

Dr Declan Ward  
Consultant Paediatric Anaesthetist  
Children's University Hospital  
Temple Street  
DUBLIN 1

422

Dear Dr Ward

**RACHEL FERGUSON (DECEASED) – INQUEST AT BELFAST CORONER'S COURT, ON 5, 6 & 7 OF FEBRUARY 2003**

I refer to our earlier telephone conversation regarding the above matter and thank you for agreeing to act as an Independent Expert on behalf of Altnagelvin Hospitals Health and Social Services Trust.

The Deceased was born on 4 February 1992 and died at the Royal Victoria Hospital on 10 June 2001. Rachel had been admitted to Altnagelvin Hospital on 7 June 2001 and was diagnosed as having appendicitis. Appendectomy was carried out on the same day and her subsequent progress is detailed in the enclosed report. The Coroner is to hold an inquest into her death at Belfast Coroner's Court, Victoria Street, Belfast on 5, 6 and 7 of February 2003. The Coroner has obtained an Independent Report from Dr Sumner, Consultant Paediatric Anaesthetist. I would be obliged if you could provide comment regarding the treatment provided and the issues raised by Dr Sumner in his report.

I thank you for agreeing to prepare a report and attend the Inquest Hearing on behalf of the Trust in respect of this matter. I look forward to receiving your report as soon as ever possible.

Yours sincerely

DS

D SCOTT  
Assistant Director of Legal Services

Direct Line No - 028 90 [REDACTED]  
E-Mail Address - [REDACTED]

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