

11/06 '04 14:37

TRUST H/Q



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Pg. 01

Lucy Crawford

Altnagelvin Hospitals H&SS Trust
Trust Headquarters

ALTNAGELVIN AREA HOSPITAL
Londonderry BT47 6SB

Facsimile Cover Sheet

FOR THE ATTENTION OF: Donna Scott DATE: 11-6-04

ORGANISATION: CJA FAX NO: [REDACTED]

No. of Pages to Follow: 5

MESSAGE:

As discussed

FROM: [Signature]

TEL: [REDACTED] Ext.
FAX NO: [REDACTED]

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MEDICAL DIRECTOR

11th March 2004

Mr John L Leckey L.L.M.
H.M. Coroner
Coroner's Office
Courthouse
Old Town Hall Building
80 Victoria Street
Belfast BT1 3GL

Dear Mr. Leckey

LUCY CRAWFORD - DECEASED

Thank you for your letter dated 5th March 2004 enclosing post mortem report and copy depositions relating to the inquest of Lucy Crawford.

From the information provided I am surprised at the conclusion reached by the Media regarding the involvement of a Consultant Paediatrician at Altnagelvin Hospital, (Dr. Quinn).

I met with Dr Quinn to discuss the issues identified in your letter of 19th February 2004. He has advised that he agreed to review the documentation of Lucy's admission prior to her death. I enclose a copy of the report, which Dr Quinn provided to Sperrin Lakeland Trust and you will note that he clearly states the limitations of his report, which was based solely on the information contained within the records. Dr Quinn identified a number of deficiencies with the care as documented. He refers to No. 18 as being an appropriate solution at that time. Dr G Jenkins also commented at the hearing that 'in 2000 No 18 solution was commonly used for both maintenance and deficiencies in some circumstances'. Dr Quinn has also advised that he recommended at the time that Sperrin Lakeland Trust should consult an independent Paediatrician from outside the Western Board.

You are of course aware that the working party set up by the Department was precipitated by this Trust following our Critical Incident Investigation into the death of Rachel Ferguson which occurred 14 months after Lucy's death. Altnagelvin Trust endorses the guidance, which was subsequently developed and distributed throughout N Ireland.

I wish to assure you that all Paediatric Medical and Surgical Staff within Altnagelvin are aware of and follow the guidance issued by the Department of Health and CREST.

In conclusion I wish to stress that Dr Quinn did not carry out a review of the case his report was provided to Sperrin Lakeland to assist them in undertaking their review.
I trust that you find this information is helpful to you please do not hesitate to contact me if you need any further information

Yours sincerely

Dr. Geoff Nesbitt
Medical Director



HER MAJESTY'S CORONER
DISTRICT OF GREATER BELFAST

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Fax: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

John L Leckey LL.M.
H.M. Coroner
Coroner's Office
Courthouse
Old Town Hall Building
80 Victoria Street
Belfast BT1 3GL
Northern Ireland

Dr J Nesbitt
Medical Director
Altnagelvin Area Hospital
Glenshane Road
Waterside
Derry
BT47 6SB

19th February 2004

Dear Dr Nesbitt

LUCY CRAWFORD - DECEASED

On 17th February 2004 I commenced the hearing of an Inquest into the death of a seventeen-month-old girl called Lucy Rebecca Crawford who died in the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children on 14th April 2000. She had been transferred there from the Erne Hospital, Enniskillen the previous day. The background to her death is set out in the reports of three experts who gave evidence at the Inquest, Dr Edward Sumner, Dr Dewi Evans and Dr John Jenkins and I am enclosing a copy of each. They have agreed the following formulation of the cause of death.

1(a) Cerebral Oedema

due to

1(b) Acute Dilutional Hyponatraemia
due to

1(c) Excess Dilute Fluid

II Gastroenteritis

In the course of the hearing the Counsel appearing on behalf of the family, Mr Brian Fee QC, referred to correspondence that the family had received from Sperrin Lakeland Trust.

I enclose a copy of that correspondence and you will note that I have highlighted a comment made in the covering letter to Mr Neville Crawford which is to the effect that an independent review did not suggest that the care provided to Lucy was inadequate or of poor quality. I understand that the review was carried out by a Consultant Paediatrician at Altnagelvin Hospital, Dr Murray Quinn. *

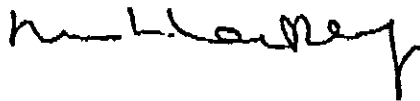
If the statement highlighted accurately reflects the views of Dr Quinn I believe he should reconsider these in the light of the evidence of the three experts and the evidence given at the Inquest into the death of Raychel Zara Ferguson who had been a patient at Altnagelvin Hospital and who died in similar circumstances on 10th June 2001 (Inquest 5th February 2003). In addition, it was conceded by Dr Auterson, Consultant, Anaesthetist, of the Erne Hospital who gave evidence at the Inquest that "the wrong fluid was given, too much of it was given and the rate of infusion should have been regulated, Lucy's care was not up to standard."

I have not seen the report of Dr Quinn. It was not provided to either the Solicitors acting for the family (Murnaghan & Fee) or to the legal representatives of the Erne Hospital. Possibly, the letter from Mr Mills to Mr Neville Crawford does not summarise adequately the views of Dr Quinn. However, I strongly believe that Dr Quinn and Altnagelvin Hospital (because of the death of Raychel Ferguson) should consider afresh the issues of fluid management of children in the light of the three enclosed reports.

I am sending a copy of this correspondence to Dr Henrietta Campbell, the Chief Medical Officer.

I should be grateful if you would acknowledge receipt of this letter.

Yours sincerely



J L LECKEY
H M CORONER FOR GREATER BELFAST

Encs
Cc Dr Henrietta Campbell, Chief Medical Officer

MEDICAL DIRECTOR

27th February 2004

Mr John L. Leckey L.L.M.
H.M. Coroner
Coroner's Office
Courthouse
Old Town Hall Building
80 Victoria Street
Belfast BT1 3GL

Dear Mr. Leckey

LUCY CRAWFORD - DECEASED

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 19-2-04 regarding Lucy Crawford Deceased.

I was very pleased to have received your correspondence as I was greatly concerned by the comments in the media, relating to Altnagelvin, following the evidence given on the first day of the Hearing.

In order to enable me to fully respond to you I should be grateful if you would provide me with a copy of the transcript of the evidence of the first day of the Inquest Hearing, and also provide me with a copy of the post mortem report.

I look forward to receiving these papers as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

Dr. Geoff Nesbitt
Medical Director

23rd March 2004

Dear Dr. Hyslop,

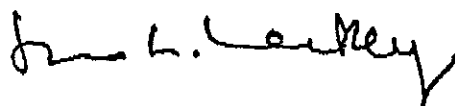
LUCY CRAWFORD, DECEASED

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 11th March.

The reason that the media referred to the involvement of Dr Quinn in the manner they did was because of what was said in the letter of 30th March 2001 from Sperrin Lakeland Trust to Mr Neville Crawford. I have sent you a copy of this letter.

Please confirm that you would have no objection to my sending a copy of your letter to Murnaghan & Fee Solicitors who act for Mr & Mrs Crawford and the General Medical Council.

Yours sincerely



J L LECKEY
HM CORONER FOR GREATER BELFAST.