

Directorate of Legal Services

PRACTITIONERS IN LAW TO THE HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE SECTOR

2 Franklin Street, Belfast, BT2 8DQ DX 2842 NR Belfast 3

Your Ref:

Our Ref: HYP B04/01

Date: 21.02.12

Mrs B Conlon Secretary to the Inquiry Arthur House 41 Arthur Street Belfast BT1 4GB

Dear Madam,

RE: INQUIRY INTO HYPONATRAEMIA RELATED DEATHS

I am instructed that the Trust has been giving consideration to the issue of the trainee anaesthetist who replaced Dr. Montague when he went off duty around 9.00 am on 27th November 1995.

There is no record of any trainee anaesthetist having made an entry in Adam Strain's medical records during the period of the surgery. The operation was underway when Dr. Montague left, and no anaesthetic events are recorded during the remainder of the operation which would appear to have necessitated the simultaneous actions of two anaesthetists. There were four anaesthetists working in nearby theatres, Dr. Keilty, Dr. Rao, Dr. Campbell and Dr. Hill who would have been available to give assistance at any point if Dr. Talyor had required it, as their operating lists each comprised a number of minor/intermediate cases which one anaesthetist could have dealt with should the other have been called to assist Dr. Taylor.

Trainee anaesthetists who were allocated to RBHSC in 1995 were always senior trainees who had the capability to perform some anaesthetic cases on their own. These anaesthetists are then recorded in the Theatre Register. The Theatre Register pages for November and December 1995 are enclosed and they do not list any trainee anaesthetists as having given anaesthetics other than those who the Inquiry have already received Witness Statements from in which they deny involvement in Adam Strain's case.

Yours faithfully,

Joanna Bolton

Solicitor Consultant

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Providing Support to Health and Social Care







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