

The Inquiry into Hyponatraemia-related Deaths

Chairman: Mr John O'Hara QC

Ms Nicola Dooher
Legal Adviser
Directorate of Legal Services
2 Franklin Street
BELFAST
BT2 8DQ

Your Ref: NSCB04/1
NSCW50/1
NSCS071/1

Our Ref: BC-0035-11

Date: 04 July 2011

Dear Ms Dooher,

Re: Investigation into the death of Claire Roberts

I attach for your attention a list of information which is required by the Inquiry.

I would appreciate a response by Friday 23rd of July

Yours sincerely,



Bernie Conlon
Secretary to the Inquiry
Enc

Secretary: Bernie Conlon

Arthur House, 41 Arthur Street, Belfast, BT1 4GB

Email: inquiry@ihrdni.org **Website:** www.ihrdni.org **Tel:** 028 9044 6340 **Fax:** 028 9044 6341

1. Electro-encephalogram Equipment:

- (i) What equipment was available on 21 -23 October 1996 to carry out an electro-encephalogram on children either in RBHSC or RVH?
- (ii) Who was qualified to operate that equipment during that period?
- (iii) Of those who were so qualified, who was available to carry out an electro-encephalogram during that period on a child?

2. Protocols/Guidelines/Policy:

- (i) Was there a protocol in place in RBHSC for consultant referral on 21 October 1996?
- (ii) Was there a protocol on 21 October 1996 in RBHSC for obtaining a consultant's specialist opinion, other than the admitting consultant?
- (iii) On 21 October 1996 were there guidelines for the nursing care of specific conditions written by the RBHSC in the form of nursing practices and procedures manuals. If guidelines did exist please forward copy to Inquiry.
- (iv) Does the pre-printed standardised care plan form for RBHSC from 21 October 1996 to date state the frequency for observations.
- (v) Was there a hospital policy in October 1996 and thereafter in relation to nurses raising concerns about paediatric patients with SHOs, Registrars and Consultants and the procedure to be followed? Did this policy, if it existed, require a nurse who was unhappy with the junior doctor's response and who wished to raise the concern with the Registrar, to obtain the sanction of the senior nurse manager on duty or any other person.
- (vi) What was the procedure/standard practice from 22nd October 1996 onwards regarding, (a) transfer of care of a patient from one consultant to another, (b) recording that transfer of care in documentation (c) informing medical and nursing teams of the transfer of care?

3. Doctor Sands

- (i) How senior a Registrar was Dr. Sands on 21 October 1996?
- (ii) Was Dr. Sands a Registrar or a Senior Registrar on 21 October 1996?
- (iii) Did Dr. Sands function virtually as a consultant and did he take on consultant-level responsibilities at that time?

4. Nursing Staff

- (i) The identity of the registered nurse with overall responsibility for Claire Roberts care between 21st and 23rd October 1996
- (ii) The identity of the ward sister or nurse in charge of Allen Ward between 21st and 23rd October 1996

5. High Dependency Unit

- (i) Did the RBHSC contain a high dependency unit between 21st and 23rd October? If so where was it located?

6. Intensive Care Unit

- (i) What was the RBHSC criterion applicable for admitting a child to paediatric intensive care in October 1996? Were there any protocols and guidelines on this if so please provide copies?

(