

## The Inquiry into Hyponatraemia-related Deaths

Chairman: Mr John O'Hara QC

Ms Angela Crawford  
Directorate of Legal Services  
2 Franklin Street  
BELFAST  
BT2 8DQ

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

Our Ref: HW-0019-12

Date: 15<sup>th</sup> June 2012

Dear Ms Crawford,

**Re: EEG Services**

I refer you to a letter dated 24<sup>th</sup> November 2010 (your ref: NSC B04/1) from Wendy Beggs to the Inquiry. At paragraph 3 of the letter it states:

*"EEG recording facilities were available in RBHSC in 1996. This service was provided Mon- Fri 9am – 5 pm. The technicians also provided an ad hoc out of hours service at the request of Consultant Neurologists, however this was an informal arrangement."*

Please could you now confirm to the Inquiry by what 'informal arrangement' a Consultant Neurologist could request an out of hours EEG in 1996 including:

1. Who they would contact?
2. By what method would that contact be?
3. The approximate length of time it would take to make such an arrangement?
4. Which staff members would operate the out of hours EEG?

I would be grateful if you could provide a response to this letter by 21<sup>st</sup> June 2012. I enclose the relevant correspondence for your convenience.

Yours sincerely,



Htaik Win  
Assistant Solicitor to the Inquiry

**Secretary:** Bernie Conlon

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

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Your Ref:  
AD-0154-10

Our Ref:  
NSC B04/1

Date:  
24 November 2010

Ms Anne Dillon  
Solicitor to the Inquiry  
Arthur House  
41 Arthur Street  
Belfast  
BT1 4GB

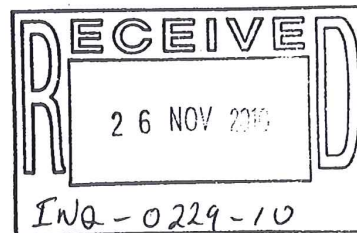
Dear Madam

**RE: INQUIRY INTO HYPONATRAEMIA RELATED DEATHS**

I refer to the above and to your letter dated 15 September 2010 (AD-0166-10). In relation to each point I can advise as follows:

1. Relative Counselling Records have been used in PICU, RBHSC since the early 1990's. Staff are unable to provide a start date for commencement of its use, however they continue to use it now.
2. In 1996 CT scans were carried out in the Neuroradiology Dept, Level 3, A Block, RVH as RBHSC did not have a CT Scanner at that time (RBHSC got its own CT Scanner in 2002). Patients would have to be transferred via ambulance across the site escorted by an Anaesthetist, (Consultant or Registrar) depending on the patient's condition, a nurse and an MTO. The X-Ray Department have advised that the time it took to arrange Claire's CT scan (from request timed at 4am to report timed at 5.30am) would have been appropriate given the system in place at the time.
3. EEG recording facilities were available in RBHSC in 1996. This service was provided Mon- Fri 9 am - 5 pm. The technicians also provided an ad hoc out of hours service at the request of the Consultant Neurologists, however this was an informal arrangement.
4. A chronology of Claire's care and the staff involved is enclosed (RGH 34).
5. Nichola Rooney who chaired the meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2004 does not recall who took the handwritten contemporaneous note of the meeting but presumes, as is normal practice, that this note was discarded once the typed version was agreed.

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6. The only event where Claire's death would have been discussed was the Paediatric Directorate Audit meeting where deaths during the previous month are discussed however the Audit Minutes have not been found.
7. With reference to document 090-038-135 the corresponding urine sample result is not a biochemistry report but a bacteriology report (090-030-094, better photocopy enclosed).
8. The documents 090-022-058 to 060 are medical notes containing chronological entries from the medical staff. The Relative Counselling Record (090-028-088) is complete and is a nursing record containing entries by nursing staff. The date given 22/10/96 (sic) must be incorrect as ventilatory support was first given at 3.00am on 23rd October 1996 and the nursing entries on the page all relate to events after that.

Yours faithfully

*pp* *Nicole Docker*

Wendy Beggs  
Assistant Chief Legal Adviser

Direct Line: [REDACTED]

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