



Business Services
Organisation

Directorate of Legal Services

— PRACTITIONERS IN LAW TO THE
HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE SECTOR —

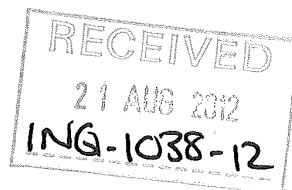
2 Franklin Street, Belfast, BT2 8DQ
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Your Ref:
HW-0019-12
HW-0024-12

Our Ref:
HYP B04/2

Date:
21st August 2012

Ms H Win
Solicitor to the Inquiry
Inquiry into Hyponatraemia-related Deaths
Arthur House
41 Arthur Street
Belfast
BT1 4GB



Dear Madam

RE: INQUIRY INTO HYPONATRAEMIA RELATED DEATHS- CLAIRE ROBERTS

I refer to the above matter and to your letters dated 15th June and 26th June 2012, references as quoted above.

My client informs me that the "informal arrangement" for an out-of-hours EEG service in 1996 meant that there was provision only if the required Technicians were available and willing to work. There was no formal on-call service. Whilst it would have been rare for technicians to refuse to work when asked, it may not have always been possible with a 1.8 WTE staff.

Using the same numbering as adopted in your letter, my client states that during the latter half of 1996, this arrangement would have involved the following:-

- 1) Contacting Hilary Todd- the Head of EEG Department in order to request an out of hours EEG.
- 2) By the on-call neurologist making contact by telephone.
- 3) A phone call would have been placed very soon after the patient had been medically assessed by the neurologist or sometimes beforehand, on the basis of medical information which had been passed to the neurologist, and he/she would then be able to clinically interpret the test results on the patient's arrival at hospital.

However, the length of time taken to arrange an EEG was variable, from 1 hour up to 24 hours over the weekend dependent on, firstly, the medical necessity for speed and, secondly, the physical location/availability of technical staff

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

- 4) During this time period, there was only one member of staff actively working (Hilary Todd) due to the other staff member having been on maternity leave.

This completes my client's response to your aforementioned letter.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Angela Crawford'.

Angela Crawford
Solicitor