

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: HW-0046-12

Our Ref. HYP B04/2

Date:

3rd October 2012

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

ANQ-2024-12

Dear Madam

RE: INQUIRY INTO HYPONATRAEMIA RELATED DEATHS- CLAIRE ROBERTS

I refer to the above matter and to your letters dated 29th August 2012 and 25th September 2012. Using the same numbering as contained in your letter of 29th August 2012, I confirm as follows:-

- 1. The Belfast Trust has advised that "Re Case number 4" is a note made by Mr Peter Walby to indicate that the content of the email refers to a fourth potential case of hyponatraemia. As at 7th December 2004, neither Mr Walby nor the Litigation Management Office were aware of the fact that the Deceased's name was Claire Roberts. All correspondence regarding Claire Roberts is filed in the Litigation Office Coroner's file A.49/04/35/ a copy of which was forwarded to the Inquiry on 20th September 2012.
- 2. In 2004, Assistant and her role was to manage the Litigation Management Office.

In 2004, Job title was Personal Secretary and her role was to provide secretarial support to RBHSC Clinical Psychologists (including Dr Nichola Rooney).

In 2004 John State Line Job title was Personal Secretary and her role was to provide support to Dr Michael McBride, Medical Director.

In 2004, secretary and her role was to provide secretarial support to Mr Peter Walby.

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All of these individuals were then employed by the Trust in an administrative/secretarial capacity (and incidentally they are all still employed by the Trust in such capacity) and, as such, it is our firm belief (as previously expressed to you in relation to Lucy Crawford's case under cover of our letter dated 21st September 2012) that, as these individuals were not decision-makers, it is most unfair to publish their names in the public domain of this inquiry. Indeed, we also previously expressed to you the fact that it is our practice to fully redact the names of all administrative assistants from documents relating to Freedom of Information requests. We would, therefore, request that the Inquiry ensures that the names of all administrative assistants and personal assistants are fully redacted from all papers which are published and distributed by the inquiry to the Interested Parties. Please confirm that this will be done, as soon as possible.

- 3. Dr Rooney has previously advised the Trust that: "As no member of the Roberts family was ever a Clinical Psychology patient, their details were not logged onto the clinical psychology patient record system, nor was a clinical psychology file opened". Dr Rooney has, however, provided the DLS with communications from her Trust computer together with a copy of her working file on the case, a redacted copy of which will be submitted to the Inquiry shortly.
- 4. The "others" (apart from Prof. Young) who are referred to in the e-mail of 15th December from Michael McBride to Dr Heather Steen.

Mr Peter Walby referred the case to H M Coroner and the Litigation Office correspondence regarding Claire Roberts is filed in its Coroner's Investigation File A.49/04/35/J, a copy of which has previously been submitted to the Inquiry on 20th September 2012.

- 5. Copies of correspondence to Dr McBride regarding Claire Roberts are contained within the Trust's Litigation Office's Coroner's Investigation File, as referred to above.
- 6. Statements were requested from Professor Young, Dr Sands, Dr Steen and Dr Webb. These were provided to H M Coroner and all details regarding same are contained in the Litigation Office's Coroner's Investigation File, as referred to above.



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This completes my client's response to your afore-mentioned letter.

Yours faithfully

Angela Crawford Solicitor

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Telephone No: Email:

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