

Directorate of Legal Services

PRACTITIONERS IN LAW TO THE HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE SECTOR

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Your Ref:

Our Ref: HYP B04/02 Date:

7th December 2012

Ms Bernie Conlon
The Secretary
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 the oral evidence which was given by Dr David Webb on 3rd December 2012, when he undertook to search for e-mail correspondence from either Dr McBride or Professor Young to himself, informing him of the Claire Roberts case (please refer page 289, line 20 to page 290, line 16 of the transcript).

I also refer to the Chairman's comment in relation to this matter on 4th December 2012, when he requested that Mr Sephton QC follow up on Dr Webb's efforts to find copies of the e-mail correspondence between himself and *Mr Walby* (please refer to page 148, lines 15 to 20 of the transcript).

I would wish to point out that Mr Walby had no involvement in the initial efforts to make contact with Dr Webb. It is clear from Dr McBride's email dated 6th December 2004 (page 301, File 139) that he had requested that Professor Young contact Dr Webb in order to inform him of the situation. A copy of this email appears to have been sent to Mr Walby's offices for information purposes, with no request to take any specific action.

Also, you will note from File 139, that the Litigation Management Office contacted Dr Webb for the first time, by way of a letter dated 22nd March 2005 (page 238, File 139).

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Finally, I would refer you to Professor Young's email dated 7th December 2004 (page 296, File 139) to Nichola Rooney, advising her that he had left a telephone message with Dr Webb's secretary in Dublin asking Dr Webb to contact him so that he could discuss the matter.

Therefore, it should be pointed out to Dr Webb that he should be searching for any email correspondence between himself and Professor Young, in this matter (rather than email correspondence between himself and the Litigation Management Office of the RVH/Mr Walby).

Please also note that the Trust has furnished all e-mail correspondence which it has in its possession in respect of Professor Young, and he himself has advised in his first witness statement that he no longer has access to his emails from this time period.

Please acknowledge safe receipt hereof and please urgently forward this letter to Senior Counsel for the Inquiry.

Yours faithfully

Angela Crawford

AMConwood.

Solicitor