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Your Ref:
HW-0096-12

Our Ref:
HYP B04/02

Date:
1st February 2013

Ms H Win
Assistant 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**

Further to your letter dated 7th November 2012, reference as quoted above, my client has provided me with the following response.

The Trust can advise that the documents referenced 090-032-108, 090-032-110, 090-032-111 and 090-032-112 would have each been the first page of two page reports. The Laboratory has confirmed that the reports are no longer available.

The second page of each report would have contained the same information at the top and bottom of the page, but the information contained in the section on Tests would have contained the information relating to the white cell blood count. If you examine the report at 090-032-113 (which has been completed manually), you will see that this contains details about the white cell blood count following on from the information relating to the red cell blood count. Furthermore, similar information would have been printed in the space allocated to tests on the second page of the printed documents, referred to in the above paragraph.

The analyser would have analysed the red and white cell blood counts at the very same time. Similarly, the person validating those results would have also validated both at the same time. Once the results had been validated, the system would then have printed off the report in the Kelvin Laboratories as there was a central printing system. The results for each ward would have been put into an envelope and posted through internal mail to the ward – a number of results would have been forwarded to the ward in one envelope, potentially from more than one of the laboratories.

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It is difficult to determine what would have happened 16 years ago, but it is possible that the results could have been looked up on lab centre. The Trust cannot confirm if this was indeed the case. It is the Trust's understanding that the ward would not have been able to print off a copy of a laboratory report at ward level in 1996.

The analyser in the RBHSC Haematology laboratory was a Sysmex K1000 in 1996.

The analyser in the RVH Haematology laboratory was a Sysmex SE9500 in 1996.

It is possible to identify from the Laboratory Account number on document 090-032-108 that this was reported from the RVH Haematology laboratory, not the RBHSC haematology laboratory. In 1996, haematology tests generated at ward level (except for patients admitted to the haematology ward) were all sent to the RVH haematology laboratory.

Regrettably, the Trust cannot explain why the second page of each report has not been stored within Claire's chart. As explained above, the information on white cell counts would have been readily available in 1996 (on the second page of a printed report, with white and red cell count analysed at the same time on the same analyser and reported at the same time).

Unfortunately, my client can be of no further assistance in this matter, and this completes my client's response to your aforementioned letter.

Yours faithfully

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

Angela Crawford
Solicitor