

STATE PATHOLOGIST

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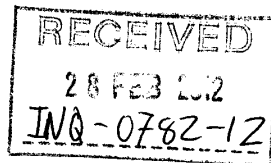
Department of

Justice

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Mr B Cullen
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The Inquiry into Hyponatraemia related Deaths
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Dear Sir

I refer to your recent e-mail regarding the internal structure of the State Pathologist's Department in 1995.

The Department was, and still is, headed by the State Pathologist who is responsible for providing the autopsy service to Coroners. In 1995 the State Pathologist was responsible to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland but currently, following devolution, is responsible to the local Minister of Justice.

In addition to the State Pathologist, there is a Deputy and two Assistant State Pathologists, all consultant grade pathologists, who assist in the conduct of Coroners' postmortem examinations. These pathologists take "clinical" responsibility for the autopsies they perform but the State Pathologist has overall responsibility for ensuring that all cases are carried out appropriately and to a high standard.

Trainee forensic pathologists, at Senior Registrar/Specialist Registrar grade are employed within the Department and work under the supervision of the consultant pathologists. In 1995 the Department employed two trainees at Senior Registrar grade. Currently there are none.

I trust this information is of assistance but, quite frankly, I do not see how it relates either directly or indirectly to the death of Adam Strain.

Yours faithfully

J Crane CBE
State Pathologist and
Professor of Forensic Medicine