

The Inquiry into Hyponatraemia-related Deaths

Chairman: Mr John O'Hara QC

Ms Wendy Beggs
Director of Legal Services
2 Franklin Street
BELFAST
BT2 8DQ

Your Ref: NSCB04/1
NCSW50/1

Our Ref: AD-0562-13

Date: 17th April 2013

Dear Ms Beggs,

Re Claire Roberts

I refer to the above and to previous correspondence.

I attach a letter which I would be grateful if you would pass on to Patient W2. You will note that therein I have referred to an accompanying letter from the Belfast Trust which includes contact details of a named person whom this patient can directly contact.

I would be grateful for your assistance in sending my letter under cover of another from your client.

Yours sincerely,



Anne Dillon
Solicitor to the Inquiry

Secretary: Bernie Conlon
Arthur House, 41 Arthur Street, Belfast, BT1 4GB
Email: inquiry@ihrdni.org **Website:** www.ihrdni.org **Tel:** 028 9044 6340 **Fax:** 028 9044 6341

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Chairman: Mr John O'Hara QC

Dear Sir/Madam

I apologise for addressing you in this way but under the terms of the Order granted by the High Court in October 2012, I do not have access to your name. I do not even know if the medical notes in question are yours or those of a member of your family. I have referred throughout as if they are yours although I appreciate this may not be the case. In the circumstances I have asked the Belfast Trust to assist me in passing this letter on to you.

I am also sorry that you have to be contacted and troubled again but an additional matter regarding the medical notes has arisen.

You will be aware that the Inquiry was granted permission to access the medical notes of a number of patients who were on Allen Ward in the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children between 21st and 23rd October 1996, including yours. Permission was granted on a strict and limited basis to ensure the privacy of all those patients and their families who were affected by the Inquiry's investigation.

Only entries relevant to helping establish the whereabouts of Dr Heather Steen were used. The entries in your notes indicate that Dr Steen was not involved in your care and treatment over the period in question. However, the entries for that day include one was made by Dr David Webb (Consultant Paediatric Neurologist) dated 20th October 1996 which states:

"...we will need to give IV midazolam"

Given that in October the Inquiry was focusing only on the whereabouts of Dr Steen, the next day's entry and others were blacked out. As a result it is not possible to ascertain if you were given this drug and if you were, in what dose.

This has now become relevant to the Inquiry's investigation into the death of Claire Roberts who died on Allen Ward on 23rd October 1996. In his evidence to the Inquiry about his treatment of Claire Roberts, Dr Webb told the Inquiry that he had never previously prescribed this drug at the Royal. Claire's parents are concerned about this and the Inquiry is investigating whether Dr Webb is correct about this. In order to do this properly we need to establish if midazolam was given to you on Dr Webb's instruction before it was prescribed by him for Claire and, if it was, we wish to see the dosage.

I wish to reassure you that in revealing this additional detail the same process will be followed so every effort will be made to maintain your privacy:

- Personal information such as your name address and telephone number will be removed to ensure that the documents become anonymous.
- Details of your treatment save the issue regarding prescription/administration of midazolam will be removed

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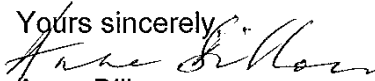
- Only the anonymised and redacted copies of your notes will be provided to the solicitors involved in Claire' case on the strict basis that there are not allowed to copy them or use them for any purpose other than that of the Inquiry. At the end of the Inquiry they must return the file to the Inquiry.
- None of your records will be placed on the Inquiry's website.

In these circumstances I hope that you will consent to this one further detail being extracted from your medical notes.

Given the importance to the work of the Inquiry, should you feel you cannot consent for whatever reason, the Chairman will again apply to the High Court seeking permission to use your notes as outlined above. You will be notified of any date and given the opportunity to have your views heard in the High Court.

Again, I apologise for any intrusion. Should you wish to discuss this matter, please contact the person named by the Belfast Trust on the letter accompanying this one. I would also be grateful if you would notify that person of your decision on or before 5pm on Friday 26th April 2013.

Yours sincerely



Anne Dillon

Solicitor to the Inquiry