

The Inquiry into Hyponatraemia-related Deaths

Chairman: Mr John O'Hara QC

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

Your Ref: NSCB04/1
NSCW50/1
NSCS071/1

Our Ref: BMcL-0075-13

Date: 22nd April 2013

Dear Ms Beggs,

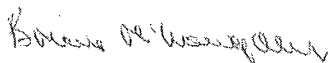
Re Raychel Ferguson Preliminary

I refer to the fourth paragraph of your letter of 19 February 2013 (copy attached) responding to mine of 10 July 2012 (BMcL-0003-12) requesting confirmation that the consent for the hospital pm was in writing and for a copy of the written consent which is not to be found anywhere in the papers.

In reply you refer to Ref 061-018-068 and assert that "*according to the clinical notes written consent was given*" But Dr Caroline Stewart, author of the clinical note to which you refer, says (WS -282/1 page 6 answer to Q 6(m)) "*I do not know if her parents gave written consent as I have not recorded it. I do not have a copy of any consent document. It is likely that the normal practice for consent for a hospital pm in 2000 was written not verbal.*" Then at page 7 of the same statement she says: "*On re-reading through her notes, it is clear that the consent referred to at page 68 relates to her parents consent to retrieve Lucy's heart for valve donation at the time of the PM which was a separate consent from that referred to on page 67 of the clinical notes.*"

We would ask you to take your client's further instructions as to whether Lucy's parents gave consent in writing to the hospital PM and if so to provide a copy of that written consent.

Yours sincerely,



Brian McLoughlin
Assistant 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

The Inquiry into Hyponatraemia-related Deaths

Chairman: Mr John O'Hara QC

Ms Angela Crawford
Directorate of Legal Services
2 Franklin Street
BELFAST
BT2 8DQ

Your Ref: NSCB04/1
NSCW50/1
NSCS071/1

Our Ref: BMCL-0003-12

Date: 10th July 2012

Dear Ms Crawford,

Re: Lucy Crawford

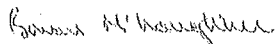
Arising out of the original call for papers for this Inquiry you provided us with Dr. O'Hara's autopsy reports in relation to the death of Lucy Crawford. We have been advised that it would normally be the case that the pathologist will maintain notes and records in relation to the post mortem, and that he will usually produce a number of draft reports before finalising his findings.

We would ask you to check whether any other documentation exists relating to Dr. O'Hara's involvement in Lucy's case which has not already been produced for the Inquiry, and to clarify the position.

We also seek your client's confirmation that Lucy's parents gave consent in writing for the autopsy to be performed and a copy of the written consent.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Brian McLoughlin
For The Inquiry

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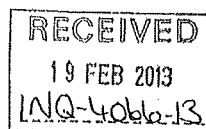
2 Franklin Street, Belfast, BT2 8DQ
DX 2842 NR Belfast 3

Your Ref:
BMcL-0047-13

Our Ref:
HYP B02/01

Date:
19th February 2013

Mr Brian McLoughlin
Solicitor to the Inquiry
Inquiry into Hyponatraemia-related Deaths
Arthur House
41 Arthur Street
Belfast
BT1 4GB



Dear Sir

**RE: INQUIRY INTO HYPONATRAEMIA RELATED DEATHS - RAYCHEL
FERGUSON (LUCY CRAWFORD)**

We refer to the above and to your letter dated 14th January 2013.

We enclose herewith as requested all of the documents contained within the pathology department file with the exception of the laboratory results. As previously advised these documents are replicated elsewhere in the Inquiry files.

We note that you say the results from the pathology department are relevant and you do not believe the consent of the family is necessary. It is not our intention to be obstructive in this matter. Our concern is based on the potential liability on the Trust arising from providing personal information and in so doing acting contrary to the wishes of the family. We would be obliged to receive evidence of the consent of the family, or if consent has been withheld, please confirm under precisely what authority the material is sought.

In your letter of 10th July 2012 you requested confirmation that Lucy's parents gave consent in writing for the autopsy to be performed and you requested a copy of the written consent. According to the clinical notes written consent was given by Lucy's parents (Inquiry reference 061-018-068). However, a copy of the consent form is not located within either the RBHSC casenotes or the Pathology department file and the Belfast Trust is unable to locate a copy.

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Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'J. Johnston', written in a cursive style.

John Johnston
Solicitor