

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

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

Our Ref: BPC-0072-11

Date: 8th December 2011

Dear Ms Beggs,

Re Your Client(s): 1. Belfast Health & Social Care Trust
2. Southern Health & Social Care Trust
3. Western Health & Social Care Trust
4. Health & Social Care Board

The Inquiry is presently investigating the system of protocols, procedures and practices by which hospitals in Northern Ireland "code" the causes of deaths of patients.

In this regard, I would ask that you provide the Inquiry with the following information:-

- (1) The Inquiry has learnt that each hospital in Northern Ireland is required to have a Clinical Coding Policy and Procedure Document and that this document must be produced at any Clinical Coding Audits. The Inquiry requires the relevant Policy and Procedure Document for (i) RBHSC/Royal Group of Hospitals (ii) Erne Hospital (iii) Altnagelvin Hospital & (iv) Craigavon Hospital.
- (2) The Inquiry has learnt that a "code" can be changed if an Inquest subsequently changes the cause of death and/or a death certificate is altered. The Inquiry requires all information relating to any "coding" changes made following the deaths of Claire Roberts and Lucy Crawford whose causes of death were changed following the Inquests into their deaths.

I would appreciate the requested information by 21st December 2011.

Yours sincerely,



Brian Cullen
Assistant Solicitor to the Inquiry

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