



Business Services  
Organisation

## Directorate of Legal Services

— PRACTITIONERS IN LAW TO THE  
HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE SECTOR —

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

Date:  
18<sup>th</sup> October 2012

Your Ref:  
HW-0050-12

Our Ref:  
HYP B04/2

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

I refer to the above matter and to your letter dated 11<sup>th</sup> September 2012, reference as quoted above.

My client has informed me that the Trust's ITC Department has, unfortunately, been unable to search the Trust's ITC system for the information which has been requested by you.

The Trust has recently been advised by a System Expert that in order to try to access the archived information, the Trust would have to ask the private company which originally supplied the system ('isoft') to obtain the information.

This would incur significant cost to the Trust and may not even produce the information which has been requested. My client has requested that, if the Inquiry still requires this information, that the Inquiry would consider being responsible for the costs of engaging such an independent expert.

In relation to the Clinical Coding Policies which were applicable at the time of the deaths of Claire Roberts and Lucy Crawford, the Trust's Coding Department has confirmed that the clinical coding policy would have been similar in 1996-2000. The actual reports for those years would not have been retained and they would not have been as detailed or developed, as they now are. At any rate, it must be noted that Coding Policies would not have had the same prominence from 1996-2000, as they now do today. Moreover, it should also be noted that most hospitals in Northern Ireland, at that time, would probably not have had any firm or comprehensive policy at all in relation to Coding.

This completes my client's response to your afore-mentioned letter.

Yours faithfully

Angela Crawford

Solicitor

*Providing Support to Health and Social Care*

