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Your Ref:  
BMcL-0044-13

Our Ref:  
HYPB02/01

Date:  
11<sup>th</sup> March 2013

Mr B McLoughlin  
Assistant 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- R FERGUSON  
(PRELIMINARY)**

I refer to the above matter and to your letter dated 9<sup>th</sup> January 2013, reference as quoted above. My client, the Belfast Trust, responds as follows:-

1. Ms Maureen O'Reilly was the Audit secretary in August 2000 and she would have been responsible for typing the minutes. Ms O'Reilly is no longer employed by the Trust.
2. There are no Trust records to confirm what steps were taken to contact the responsible Consultant and Pathologist.
3. The Trust cannot identify the Consultant or the Pathologist who would have been contacted to attend the meeting and make a presentation.
4. It is not the Trust's position that the Audit List confirms that Drs Crean and O'Hara attended the Audit and each made a presentation. The recording of Dr Crean's name on the Audit List simply confirms that he was the Consultant under whom Lucy was admitted to PICU. The reference to Dr O'Hara is due to the fact that he carried out the post mortem examination.
5. The Trust cannot identify the individual clinicians who attended to make a presentation. You will note that Dr Crean has advised, in his witness statement (reference WS-292-1) that: "I have no recollection if I knew if Lucy's death was discussed at the Audit meeting on 10th August 2000."

*Providing Support to Health and Social Care*



You will further note that, Dr McKaigue, in his witness statement (WS-302-2) has stated: "My signature is in the attendance register for the multidisciplinary audit meeting on 10th August 2000, however I have no memory of that meeting or what was discussed".

Dr Hanrahan has also advised in his witness statement that he has no recollection of this meeting.

6. The Clinical Audit Department has confirmed that it holds no other records relating to what was discussed in relation to Lucy at the relevant Audit Meeting.
7. It is the Trust's position that no other record was made of the discussions relating to Lucy which took place at the relevant Audit Meeting.

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

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'pp JRBata' with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Angela Crawford  
Solicitor