

## **Directorate of Legal Services**

PRACTITIONERS IN LAW TO THE
HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE SECTOR

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

Your Ref: BMcL-0036-12 Our Ref: HYPB02/01 Date: 18<sup>th</sup> April 2013

Mr Brian 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- RAYCHEL FERGUSON (PRELIMINARY)

I refer to the above matter and to your letter dated 11<sup>th</sup> December 2012, reference as above, and to our letter dated 29<sup>th</sup> January 2013 in which we provided a partial response to the matters raised in your letter. We have now received instructions in relation to the remaining matters at numbers 1 and 4.

My client, the Belfast Health & Social Care Trust, instructs as follows:-

- 1. (a) It has not located any documents regarding the creation of the Critical Incident Review Group, its role, membership, or responsibilities.
- 1. (b) The Trust understands that no minutes were kept for the Critical Incident Review Group. A former member of the group has advised that any actions, findings, or lessons learnt were written on the back of the IR1-Incident Report Form that was reviewed by the group. When an incident required more detailed interviews/analysis a typed report was stapled to the IR1 form. Once reviewed the forms were filed in chronological order and held on file in the RBHSC Nursing Administration Office. The Nursing Administration Office has been asked to check and confirm if they hold any documentation on file relating to Lucy Crawford. We will revert to you upon receipt of instructions in this regard.

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- 4. Please find attached the following documents:
- (a) Health and Personal Social Services Management Executive Circular HPSS (PPRD1) 4/93 31<sup>st</sup> August 1993
- (b) Royal College of Pathologists document 'Guidelines for the retention of tissues and organs at post-mortem examination' dated March 2000.
- (c) Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety Circular HSS (MD) 6/00 27<sup>th</sup> March 2000.
- (d) Draft document entitled 'Retention of Organs Following Post Mortem' with enclosures. Please note that the document is dated 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2001 and therefore post-dates Lucy Crawford's death however we have provided the document as it refers to the then existing and previous post mortem practice.
- (e) Document entitled 'Consent for Post Mortem Examination in Royal Hospitals during 2000'. This document was prepared by Ms Patricia Donnelly, Clinical Director of Acute Services, and is a summary of the standards and practice for consent for post mortem examination in the Royal Hospitals during the 1990s until the present time.

This completes the responses to the outstanding matters in your letter.

Yours faithfully

John Johnston Solicitor

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