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Your Ref:
BMcL-0018-11

Our Ref:
HYPW50/1

Date:
29th January 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-RAYCHEL
FERGUSON PRELIMINARY**

I refer to the above matter and to your letter dated 6th November 2012, referenced above. We have received instructions from the Western Trust and would respond to your letter using the same numbering as follows:-

1. Following searches the Trust is unable to locate any policy, guidance or protocol of the Trust and/or Erne Hospital in existence in 2000 regarding the transfer of patients from one hospital to another.
2. Instructions awaited –answer to follow.
3. Please find enclosed redacted minutes of a Clinical and Social Care Governance Committee meeting held on 20 May 2004 and notes of a meeting between Mr Mills and Dr Kelly on Thursday 4 May 2000 in which there is a reference to the death of Lucy Crawford. We are instructed no other documents are available.
4. There is no record of an application from Sperrin Lakeland Trust (SPL) for accreditation with the Kings Fund in 2000 or before. Please see our letter dated 7th March 2012 in response to Inquiry reference BPC-0155-12. Copy attached for ease of reference.

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5. No document could be found by the Trust to confirm when the document 'Terms of Reference/Ground Rules for Case Reviews' was introduced. However, the document was discussed at a Senior Management Meeting on 11 May 2000 and the redacted Minutes of this meeting are enclosed.
6. Please find enclosed a copy of the Trust Policy entitled 'Incident Reporting Policy and Procedures June 2012'.

Please also find enclosed a copy of a Health and Social Care Board document entitled 'Procedure for the reporting and follow up of Serious Adverse Incidents'.

In accordance with the guidance the Trust is required to undertake SAI investigations when an incident meets the criteria as set out and is required to facilitate, where appropriate, the involvement of patients/service users / carers / family members within this process.

7. The Trust is unable to confirm definitively whether or not the SLT had in 2000 a bereavement policy or guidance to staff following the death of a child.

The Trust instructs Bereavement Co-Ordinators were appointed regionally in 2005.

The Trust's Bereavement officer has provided three documents relating to such matters. We enclose a SLT document entitled 'Information Booklet for Relatives Guidance on what to do after a Death'. This document contains a section 'Helping Children Cope'. The date of issue of this document is unknown but it is thought it post-dates 2000.

We enclose a SLT document entitled 'Last Offices Protocol 2006'. This document does not contain guidance for staff on the death of a child.

Also enclosed is a 'Reference List'. This refers to documents used in the preparation of a 2008 WHSCT draft Last Offices/Bereavement Care Policy. The 2006 SLT Last Offices Protocol is referenced in this list.

8. Please find enclosed the following:

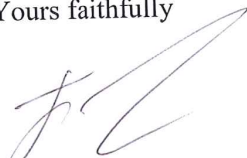
(i) SLT 'Internal Complaints Procedure Revised September 2002 (Original July 1996)' obtained from SLT intranet website. Our client has been unable to locate a copy of the July 1996 version.

Please find enclosed a SLT 1998 document relating to the Children (NI) Order 1995 'Children Order Representations and Complaints Procedure'.

9. The Trust has not been able to locate a Risk Management Strategy for 2000. Please find enclosed a copy of the SLT 'Risk Management Strategy' dated November 2003. Please note this document does not refer to any existing SLT Risk Management Strategy.
10. No documentation in relation to this question is available. If any information should become available this will be forwarded upon receipt.
11. Scrutiny Committee Meetings are not minuted. Our client is currently carrying out a search for the 'Involvement reports' and these will be forwarded upon receipt from our client.
12. Our client is not aware of any other documentation in existence which has not previously been provided to the Inquiry.
13. Our client instructs it is not and has never been in possession of Lucy's GP notes and records. We would be grateful if you could clarify why you believe the Western Trust holds the GP notes and records.

Please find enclosed a copy of the Erne Hospital discharge letter dated 6 June 2000 reference ERN: 123000.

Yours faithfully



John Johnston
Solicitor