

The Inquiry into Hyponatraemia-related Deaths

Chairman: Mr John O'Hara QC

Ms Angela Crawford
Directorate of Legal Services
2 Franklin Street
BELFAST
BT2 8DQ

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

Our Ref: BMcL-0019-12

Date: 7th November 2012

Dear Ms Crawford,

Re: Raychel Ferguson Preliminary

As you know, the Inquiry will shortly examine certain issues arising out of the death of Lucy Crawford. I understand that you represent the interests of the Health and Social Care Board, successor to the dissolved Western Health and Social Services Board. If that is not correct can you please confirm the position as soon as possible.

The Inquiry is aware from its consideration of documents provided by the Sperrin Lakeland Trust, that a number of employees of the Western Health and Social Services Board ("the Board") were notified of Lucy's death and the steps that were taken by the Trust to investigate the causes of that death. We are aware, in particular, of the involvement of Dr. McConnell, Dr. Hamilton and Mr. Bradley in correspondence or discussions with the Trust on this matter.(see for example Ref:033-102-286; Ref:030-010-017; Ref:036c-003-004; Ref:036A-028-069 to 036A-028-070).

The Board has provided some limited documentation to the Inquiry which relates to the death of Lucy. This is contained in Inquiry files 017 and 018. The Inquiry has to be sure that the Board does not retain any other material which is relevant to its investigations. Since the documentation provided to the Inquiry by the Board almost entirely concerns issues which arose in or about 2004, it seems clear that the Board must at one time have had other documentation in its possession relating to Lucy's death and how it was being examined by the Trust.

Accordingly, we would ask you to ensure that appropriate searches are carried out and that the Inquiry is provided as a matter of urgency with all documentation which remains in the possession, custody or control of the Board, its servants or agents, or former servants or agents, which relates to the death of Lucy Crawford. This would include all records held in the files of Dr McConnell, Mr Bradley and Dr Hamilton relating to Lucy's death from 2000.

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For the avoidance of doubt the Inquiry is not only seeking materials which may have been sent to the Board by the Trust, but we are also anxious to obtain any documentation relating to the Board's consideration of this death, as well as the Board's interaction with any other person or body in respect of the death.

We would ask you to ensure that contact is made with the aforementioned employees to confirm whether they themselves hold any documentation which might be relevant to the Inquiry's work, or any other employees who could conceivably have had some input or involvement in issues arising from Lucy's death.

In addition to the above we would also ask you to provide the following specific documents to the Inquiry:

- a. The job description of Dr. William McConnell, in respect of his role as Director of Public Health in the Western Health and Social Services Board;
- b. A copy of any record made or created by the Board which records the death of Lucy Crawford, or its cause or suspected cause;
- c. A copy of any procedures/policy applicable in April 2000 or subsequently, and relating to the role and responsibility of the Board's community child health department (or howsoever described) for obtaining information relating to deaths in children in the Board area and specifically the entries in the death certificates.

We look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible, and at latest by Wednesday 21st November.

Yours sincerely,



Brian McLoughlin
Assistant Solicitor to the Inquiry