



**Business Services
Organisation**

Directorate of Legal Services

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

2 Franklin Street, Belfast, BT2 8DQ
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Your Ref:
BMcL-0019-12

Our Ref:
HYPH099/03

Date:
26th April 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) Our client: The Health and Social Care Board**

We refer to the above matter, to your letter dated 7th November 2012 (reference as quoted above) and to our previous correspondence herein dated 22nd January 2013 and 21st February 2013. We have received instructions from our client in relation to the following outstanding issues.

In relation to the second paragraph of your letter, our client has advised us that Dr Colin Hamilton retired in 2008, and he has since provided our client with his written confirmation that he neither holds, nor at any time did he hold, any papers which are relevant to any of the children's deaths which are being investigated by the Inquiry. Furthermore, our client has been unable to locate any papers held formerly by Dr Hamilton's offices (as a result of neither the 2004 trawl or the latest trawls of papers/electronic files) which relate to Lucy Crawford's death. Dr Hamilton also confirmed that Dr McConnell, as Director of Public Health, dealt with all medico-legal cases around this time.

Furthermore, we would again advise that our client has been unable to locate any further papers held by Dr McConnell and Mr Bradley during its trawls of both electronic and paper records from this period of time.

As requested, we have also made further enquiries with Dr Bill McConnell, and we will be responding separately regarding this issue which was also raised in your letter dated 19th March 2013 (BMcL-0062-13).

As regards point (c) of your letter, we would advise that our client has confirmed that it did not have any responsibility in April 2000 or subsequently, in relation to obtaining information relating to deaths of children in the Board area and specifically the entries in the death certificates. The Board has informed us that the responsibility in this area passed to the individual Trusts and Westcare in 1998.

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We also generally refer you to our previous letters in relation to the matter of the searches which have been carried out by the Board in order to locate all relevant documentation and we would again wish to assure the Inquiry that all appropriate searches have been carried out through all paper and electronic records, but that all documentation which is relevant to both the matter of the Board's consideration of the death of Lucy Crawford and its interaction with any other person or body in respect of the death have previously been furnished to the Inquiry.

As mentioned above, we will be providing our client's further explanation of the steps taken in 2004 in order to secure the relevant documentation in our separate response to BMCL-0062-13 which will follow, as soon as ever possible.,

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AM Crawford'.

Angela Crawford
Solicitor