

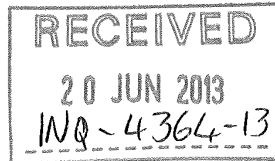


Business Services
Organisation

Directorate of Legal Services

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

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Your Ref:
BMcL-0062-13

Our Ref:
HYPH099/03

Date:
20th June 2013

Ms A Dillon
Solicitor to the Inquiry
Inquiry into Hyponatraemia-related Deaths
Arthur House
41 Arthur Street
Belfast
BT1 4GB

Dear Madam,

**RE: INQUIRY INTO HYPONATRAEMIA RELATED DEATHS- R FERGUSON
(PRELIMINARY) Our Client: The Health and Social Care Board**

I refer to the above and to previous correspondence herein. I understand that the issue of documentation retained and held by the former WHSSB following the death of Lucy Crawford was discussed at the hearing yesterday. The Health and Social Care Board wishes to assure you that it conducted thorough and extensive searches in order to ascertain whether it held any other documentation which had not already been provided to the Inquiry.

I am instructed that the recent searches conducted by the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) and Public Health Agency (PHA) between November 2012 and February 2013 centred on historical records located at Gransha Park House, Londonderry, the former Headquarters of the legacy Western Health and Social Care Board (WHSSB). A date range defined as April 2000 to November 2004 was used to focus the search to relevant physical and electronic material, with key word searches being employed to identify potentially relevant electronic records. Additional searches requested in 2013 incorporated a wider date range and related to Clinical Governance matters.

The search was coordinated through the Regional Health and Social Care Board's Corporate Services Team, and drew on the knowledge of officers previously within the employ of the former WHSSB from the Office of the WHSSB Chief Executive and former Public Health Department who are now employees of the HSCB and PHA.

The search team also engaged IT support to attempt to identify and reinstall any archived/legacy emails from the period in question that remained on computer hard drives, as well as facilitating access to known archived server files located on a server at the Gransha Park site.

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In addition, an audit was initiated to look back at legacy asset registers of IT equipment from the period to establish if any personal computers issued to key former employees were still retained. This resulted in a number of hard drives on newer PCs being searched for archived legacy material, which had been generated in the period in question.

The combined results of these searches provided limited additional material not already provided to the Inquiry Team in 2004 by the former WHSSB.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Beggs' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Wendy Beggs
Assistant Chief Legal Adviser