

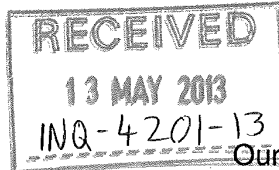


**Business Services
Organisation**

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-0076-13

Our Ref:
HYP W50/2

Date:
13th May 2013

Mr BMcLoughlin
Assistant Solicitor to the Inquiry
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 1st May 2013. I am instructed as follows: -

1. The time to which you refer is the time that the request was generated on computer. If a request is computer generated it is assumed that the sample is taken from the patient at the same time, thus this time is recorded as the specimen time in the Laboratory Computer. If a request is manually generated and the specimen time is recorded on the request form, this can be manually entered into the Laboratory computer system by Laboratory staff.
2. If a specimen time is not recorded on a manual request then no time can be entered, only the specimen date.
3. It is possible to record the time on a blood chemistry report which is requested manually but only if the time is recorded on the manual request form.
4. The Trust is unable to confirm the reason why this was not done however it believes that the time was not recorded because either:
 - a) The time was not recorded on the manual request form by requestor; or
 - b) The time was recorded on the manual request form but was not entered onto laboratory computer by laboratory staff.
5. The results were available electronically at 4:26 on 13/4/2000 and practice at the time was to ring all urgent requests to the ward as soon as they became available. However at that time telephone records were not kept.

Providing Support to Health and Social Care



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

I trust that this is in order.

Yours faithfully

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

Joanna Bolton
Solicitor Consultant