



Business Services
Organisation

Directorate of Legal Services

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

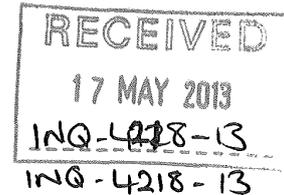
2 Franklin Street, Belfast, BT2 8DQ
DX 2842 NR Belfast 3

Your Ref:
BMcL-0081-13

Our Ref:
HYP W50/01

Date:
17th May 2013

Mr Brian McLoughlin
Assistant Solicitor to the Inquiry
Inquiry into Hyponatraemia-related Deaths
Arthur House
41 Arthur Street
Belfast
BT1 4GB



Dear Mr McLoughlin

RE: INQUIRY INTO HYPONATRAEMIA RELATED DEATHS - RAYCHEL FERGUSON GOVERNANCE

I refer to the above matter and to your letter dated 7th May 2013 (reference as quoted above) and confirm we have received our client's instructions.

The autopsy report on page 6 (062-048-119) lists the sites which were swabbed as 'lungs, trachea, liver, faeces, sputum and intestine'. With regard to the specimens for microbiology which are listed in your letter, by a process of elimination it is possible that specimen 607501 is sputum. If this is the case, this would have been taken directly from the trachea either by scraping a small sample of liquid sputum into a sterile container or by taking a swab from the inside of the trachea. It is not possible to determine from the report which specimen was submitted for microbiology (looking for bacterial organisms) and which for virology (looking for viruses). However, tissue for viral studies has to be 'wet' tissue but bacteriological studies are undertaken on swab samples it is therefore entirely possible that a swab from the trachea was taken to exclude bacterial infection and a 'wet' sample of the sputum taken from the same site for viral studies.

In your letter you ask for a copy of the relevant entry in the 'mortuary log book'. We would be grateful if you could clarify what it is you mean by 'mortuary log book'.

Providing Support to Health and Social Care



We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "PPJR Bato" with a stylized flourish at the end.

John Johnston
Solicitor