

The Inquiry into Hyponatraemia-related Deaths

Chairman: Mr John O'Hara QC

Ms Wendy Beggs
Directorate of Legal Services
2 Franklin Street
BELFAST
BT2 8DQ

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

Our Ref: BMcL-0109-13

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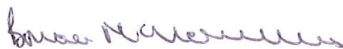
Dear Ms Beggs,

Re: Raychel Ferguson (Lucy Crawford Aftermath)

Reference is made at Dr O'Donohoe's Fitness to Practise Panel Hearing to a document entitled "Paediatric Medical Guidelines version 4 February 2000" [ref: 163-001-004, copy attached for ease of reference]. Can you please provide a copy of this document? I should say we have asked Dr O'Donohoe to provide a copy but he has not so far done so.

As this may have relevance for the Western Trust witnesses to be examined by the Inquiry we would be grateful if you could furnish this as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,



Brian McLoughlin
Assistant Solicitor to the Inquiry

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A requests to have a paediatric ventilator made available, particularly for that sort of purpose.

B You also mentioned paper materials, the colleague who had started there and who retired had started putting together guidelines and protocols and so on, to try and, what shall we say, organise, let us say, the nature of the work. He had maybe produced something like four or five -- had dealt with four or five topics but he retired. In terms of attitude to training junior staff, it was something of a shock to arrive and attend my first cardiac or cardio-respiratory arrest, I should say, resuscitation on the children's ward to find an SHO who had been there when I arrived who clearly had very little idea as to how to proceed and to find that no effort had been made to ensure that some sort of training was available to her before she started

C Q Now, you have spoken about when you arrived, we obviously are dealing with an incident in 2000, was there anything that you were able to do or advise or change in the course of those three years that you were there?

D A I started the changes which were beginning to come into effect, so that, for example, when new doctors started, there was an arrangement that some sort of resuscitation training would be given. In general the change-over of junior doctors in Northern Ireland is traditionally February and August, and at those points there was an arrangement that new people starting would have some training, formal training, before they started working. I started to put together a collection of written guidelines, with a view to trying to ensure that there was more consistency in what we were doing with a view to ensuring that the wheel did not have to be reinvented (if I can put it like that) every day of the week.

E Q I wonder if you would pause there. You have spoken about guidelines, I do not believe this is a matter in issue between us, sir, but there are some paediatric guidelines that were drafted, which we understand for which you are responsible. I think formally I ought to hand this and ask if you would acknowledge it, it should be headed "Paediatric Medical Guidelines Version 4, February 2000"?

A Yes, that is mine.

F MS FOSTER: Could you keep it in front of you for the moment and then we will have it prepared for the Panel. I do not need it in detail at the minute, sir, and it is quite a lengthy document I would propose an extract of it is copied for you at a later date.

G THE CHAIRMAN: Or could it perhaps just be available for us to peruse in its original form when we are in *camera*, we could not, just simply because of the vast amount of photocopying that we do generate in these proceedings, and I can see it is a very lengthy document.

MS FOSTER: It is.

THE CHAIRMAN: Frankly, I would have thought, what you are inviting us to do is each of us spend a few minutes looking through it to get a sense of the content and the flavour and its got no further purpose, is that correct?

H MS FOSTER: That is very helpful, sir. There is a page that I ought to take you to, but