

## The Inquiry into Hyponatraemia-related Deaths

Chairman: Mr John O'Hara QC

Ms Joanna Bolton  
Director of Legal Services  
2 Franklin Street  
BELFAST  
BT2 8DQ

Your Ref: NSCB04/1  
NCSW50/1

Our Ref: AD-0547-13

Date: 26<sup>th</sup> March 2013

Dear Ms Bolton,

**Re: Raychel Ferguson - Governance**

Thank you for your letter of 21st March 2013.

The Inquiry requires the Board Minutes for the period 1999-2003 rather than from the date of Raychel's admission for the following reasons:

- a. Hyponatraemia was a live issue at the time earlier to Raychel's admission (*"The problem today of 'dilutional hyponatraemia' is well recognised (see reference to BMJ Editorial). The anaesthetists in RBHSC would have approx. 1 referral from within the hospital per month. There was also a previous death approx. 6yrs ago in a child from the Mid-Ulster. Bob Taylor thinks there have been 5-6 deaths over a 10 year period of children with seizures..."*). This can be seen from an email (document reference 021-056-135), which was copied to Dr. Fulton.
- b. The Inquiry is investigating the aftermath of an earlier death in the same Board area (Lucy Crawford)

For these reasons the Inquiry wishes to explore whether and to what extent issues relevant to either 1 or 2 above were discussed in the period 6 months prior to Lucy Crawford's death in April 2000 until after Raychel Ferguson's inquest.

I would be grateful to receive the documents requested.

Yours sincerely,



Anne Dillon  
Solicitor to the Inquiry

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