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Your Ref:
AD-0543-13

Our Ref:
HYP B04/05

Date:
21st May 2013

Ms Anne Dillon
Solicitor to the Inquiry
Arthur House
41 Arthur Street
Belfast
BT1 4GB



Dear Madam,

RE: INQUIRY INTO HYPONATRAEMIA RELATED DEATHS-RAYCHEL FERGUSON GOVERNANCE

I refer to the above matter and to your letter dated 15th March 2013 which you asked us to direct to the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust on 8th April 2013. I reply as follows: -

1. The Litigation Management Office files were forwarded to the Inquiry in December 2004
2. The Clinical Negligence/Litigation files were forwarded to the Inquiry in December 2004
3. The Brangam & Bagnall/Solicitor civil litigation and Inquest files were forwarded to the Inquiry in March 2013.
4. I note that you have requested the Media/Corporate Affairs/PR files. Please refer to the Trust's response dated 14th December 2012 to number 14 of Mr McLoughlin's letter [BMCL-0017-12] which stated: -

"Enquiries to the press office in The Royal Hospitals were noted and answered by individual press officers and not collated centrally. There was no central paper or electronic file which held all information regarding any enquiries (internal or external) regarding hyponatraemia-related deaths.

An electronic search to try to locate any emails has been carried out but there was no mail archive system capturing emails being processed in legacy Royal Hospitals Trust.

A search of the Belfast Trust Mail Archive has been carried out and no further emails relating to exchanges from or between communications/press officers in relation to the deaths of Lucy Crawford or Raychel Ferguson have been identified other than those already in the possession of the Inquiry".

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Furthermore the Litigation Management Office Media file was forwarded to the Inquiry in September 2012.

5. Response to follow.
6. Response to follow.
7. The Litigation Management Office files were forwarded to the Inquiry in December 2004.
8. The Trust does not hold a Complaints file in relation to Raychel Ferguson.
9. Response to follow.
10. I am instructed that these documents were forwarded to the Inquiry in December 2004.
11. Response to follow.
12.
 - a) I am instructed that the Belfast Trust has been unable to locate any documentation regarding the transfer of patients and information between the Royal Group of Hospitals and Altnagelvin or other hospitals in Northern Ireland.
 - b) See 4 above.
 - c) Response to follow.
 - d) I am instructed that the nursing notes/communication is contained within the RBHSC casenotes, copies of which were forwarded to the Inquiry in December 2004.
 - e) Response to follow.
 - f) I am instructed that the "draft bar chart" was prepared for the first meeting of the Hyponatraemia Working Party from data provided by the PICU secretary. It was not tabled at that meeting and, to the best of the Trust's knowledge, was not forwarded beyond the original email to Dr Darragh (007-051-100);
 - g) Response to follow;
 - h) Please see 1 & 7 above;
 - i) I am instructed that the Trust, as an organisation was not responsible for reporting deaths to NCEPOD and therefore has no documentation relating to the reporting of Raychel Ferguson's death to NCEPOD. I would also refer you to the Trusts response to your letter of 17th May 2005 (BMcL-0082-13).

j) I am instructed that "yellow card" report was sent to Dr Nesbitt with a copy of the MCA response to same is contained within the Inquiry papers reference 007-017-034.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "JR Bolton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Joanna Bolton
Solicitor Consultant