



Business Services
Organisation

Directorate of Legal Services

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

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Your Ref:
AD-0560-13

Our Ref:
HYP W50/01

Date:
30th April 2013

Ms A Dillon
Solicitor to the Inquiry
Inquiry into Hyponatraemia-related Deaths
Arthur House
41 Arthur Street
Belfast
BT1 4GB

Dear Ms Dillon

RE: INQUIRY INTO HYPONATRAEMIA RELATED DEATHS-RAYCHEL FERGUSON

We refer to the above and to your letter dated 15th April 2013 (reference as quoted above).

We are instructed the medical “educational supervisor” in Altnagelvin Hospital in 2001 was Dr Philip Gardiner. Dr Gardiner has provided us with details regarding the responsibilities this role entailed. Please confirm if you would like us to provide this information.

With regard to the person(s) who were in charge of nursing education in Altnagelvin Hospital in 2001, we are advised there was not a similar education structure within nursing as existed within medical staffing and there was not one individual in charge of nursing education. Education and training needs were the responsibility of a number of individuals.

In respect to education and training for nursing staff we are instructed as follows:

- (i) An In-Service Education Consortium (North & West In-Service Education Consortium) offered various courses throughout the year for staff and these places were booked directly with the Consortium. The Director of Nurse Education for the North & West In-Service Education Consortium in 2001 was Professor Aine Colgan. It was the responsibility of the Ward Managers, Department Managers and Directorate Managers to identify the Nursing staff within their areas who were required to attend the courses.

Providing Support to Health and Social Care

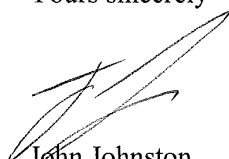


- (ii) The Altnagelvin Hospitals Trust organised biannual mandatory training sessions for nursing staff. Ward Sisters would have sent through to the Director of Nursing the names of staff for these sessions.
- (iii) Each Directorate was required to undertake a training needs analysis for their nursing staff to determine which non-mandatory courses staff needed to attend. The Directorate Managers would have submitted to the Director of Nursing on an annual basis the number of places they wished to request on Specialist Practice, Short Courses and Stand Alone Modules offered by the University of Ulster and Queen's University. These were then submitted to the DHSSPS as part of the Trust's Education Commissioning Plan and the Trust would have been advised of the number of places that had been allocated.

The Trust believes that all of the above processes were in place in 2001 however we would ask you to note that the Trust has been unable to access its old electronic records regarding these matters and therefore cannot state categorically that the processes described in (ii) and (iii) were in place in 2001.

We trust this information will be of assistance.

Yours sincerely



John Johnston
Solicitor