

Northern Ireland  
**Statistics &  
Research**  
Agency

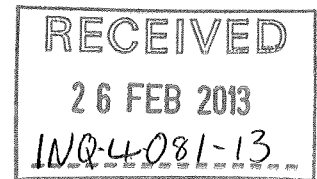
**GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE**  
**Oxford House**  
**49-55 Chichester Street**  
**Belfast BT1 4HL**  
Telephone [REDACTED]  
Email Alistair.butler@[REDACTED]

Brian McLoughlin  
The Inquiry into Hyponatraemia-related Deaths  
Arthur House  
41 Arthur Street  
BELFAST  
BT1 4GB

**Your reference** BMcL-0054-13

**Our reference**

**Date** 26 February 2013



Dear Mr McLoughlin

**Inquiry into Hyponatraemia-related Deaths –  
Lucy Crawford (Deceased) – date of death: 14 April 2000**

Thank you for your letter dated 8 February 2013.

I am responding to your queries as follows:

In 2000 where a certifying doctor indicated that further information could be provided the onus was on them to do so. Such information was used solely to facilitate the statistical coding of the cause of death. However to facilitate matters on receipt of a medical certificate cause of death with the additional information box checked, GRO wrote to the certifying practitioner seeking this information. If no response was received a reminder was issued after 3 months. Such documentation was dispensed with after five years in line with the official Retention and Disposal Schedule. The death of Lucy Crawford however was referred to the Coroner who assumed responsibility for determining the cause of death. On receipt of the Coroner's findings on 19 February 2004 the cause of death was amended having regard to the Coroners' determination.

Information provided on cause of death of all death registrations is used to produce aggregate statistics in the Registrar General's Quarterly and Annual Reports. These statutory reports are supplied to the local Health Authorities. Where detailed information on a specific death is required, GRO supply such information directly to the local Health Authorities. Current examples include information on MRSA, CDiff and Influenza related deaths, which is provided weekly to each HSC Trust and the Public Health Agency.

Yours sincerely

**ALISTAIR BUTLER**  
Assistant Registrar General



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