

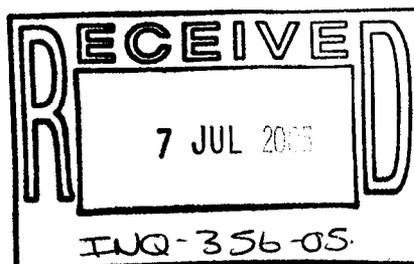


DOWN LISBURN TRUST

Our Ref: JC/pmcb/jm/wgs

4 July 2005

Ms F. Chamberlain
Solicitor to the Inquiry
3rd Floor
20 Adelaide Street
Belfast
BT2 8GB



Dear Ms Chamberlain

Re: **Inquiry into Hyponatraemia-related Deaths**

I refer to your letter of May 17th 2005 requesting information on a number of matters. I also refer to the telephone conversation with Mr Paul McBrearty, Director of Corporate Affairs, Down Lisburn Trust on Thursday 16th June 2005. Down Lisburn Trust is very happy to assist the inquiry team in any way we can and I hope you find the information we have provided useful.

As explained by Mr McBrearty, Down Lisburn Trust was successful in achieving the NI Quality Award (EFQM) in 2004. As part of its application a comprehensive document setting out the way the Trust is structured, organised and conducts its business was prepared. I have for your information enclosed a copy of that document and would refer you to the following pages which I believe address the questions raised in your letter.

Question 1

Please refer to pages 1-2 and 13-14 of the EFQM document

Question 2

Please refer to pages 32 and 48.

Question 3

Please refer to pages 22-24. On the more specific issue of education and continuous development of our medical and nursing staff, I have provided a copy of our "Clinical and Social Care Governance Annual report 2003-2004".



NIQA 2003



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Please refer to page 27 with regard to medical staff and for nursing staff please see pages 28-30 in the same report. With specific regard to Hyponatraemia, I can advise that when the Crest Guidelines were issued all Medical Staff received formal training in the management of this condition (the teaching presentation is enclosed with the attachments). Nursing staff also received this training and Crest Guidance posters are displayed in clinical areas.

I have also enclosed for your information as requested the following documents:-

Appendix 1	Handbook for junior medical doctors
Appendix 2	Copy of Induction Sessions for junior doctors
Appendix 3	Trust wide 3 day induction programme
Appendix 4	Corporate nursing policy 2, Nursing Induction Plan
Appendix 5	Two actual examples of local department induction programmes for nursing staff.
Appendix 6	Teaching presentation on Hyponatraemia
Appendix 7	Documentation relating to overseas nurses
Appendix 8	Employee Handbook

With regard to question 4, the education and continuous development of overseas nursing and medical staff is no different than that already outlined above. However specifically for nurses coming from overseas, up until March 2005 Down Lisburn Trust provided an 'inhouse' adaptation programme. The documentation associated with this is included in Appendix 7. With effect from April 1st 2005 the adaptation programme for nurses from overseas is provided by the Beeches Management Centre. If you require any more information I am happy to provide the same.

Regarding question 5, please see our separate response to your letter of 15 June 2005 in respect of the management of untoward incidents.

Yours sincerely



MR J COMPTON
Chief Executive

Enc EFQM report
Clinical and Social Care Governance Annual Report 2003-2004