

Mr Bernard Mitchell
Chief Executive
United Hospitals HSS Trust
Bush House
45 Bush Road
ANTRIM
BT41 2QB

Our Ref: FC-122-05

Date: 17 May 2005

Dear Mr Mitchell

Re: Inquiry into Hyponatraemia-related Deaths

As you may be aware, on 1 November 2004 Angela Smith, the then Minister with responsibility for Health, Social Services and Public Safety in Northern Ireland announced the setting up of the above Public Inquiry into the events surrounding and following the deaths of 3 children Adam Strain, Lucy Crawford and Raychel Ferguson. I am appointed as solicitor to the Inquiry.

There are in addition to the events surrounding the deaths of these children, a number of issues that will be considered by the Chairman of the Inquiry when the oral hearings commence in October/November 2005. For example, the role of the Health Boards, Trust and the DHSSPS, their interaction with each other and their responsibilities. In order to assist the Chairman I would be grateful if you would provide clarification in relation to a number of matters to help us understand the role of the Hospital Trusts in Northern Ireland. In particular:

1. Please explain the role and responsibilities of your Trust;
2. Please explain the interaction between the Trust and (i) the Health Board, (ii) the other Health Trusts within Northern Ireland;
3. Please explain how the Trust monitors the education and continuous development of its doctors and nursing staff. If there is an induction pack provided to doctors and nurses coming to work within the Trust for the first time please provide a copy of the same;

Secretary: Ambrose Owens **Deputy Secretary:** Sharon Lindsay
The Inquiry into Hyponatraemia-related Deaths, 3rd Floor, 20 Adelaide Street, Belfast, BT2 8GB
Email: inquiry@ihrdni.org **Website:** www.ihrdni.org **Tel:** 028 9051 7038 **Fax:** 028 9051 7237

4. Please explain the role of the Trust in the education and continuous development of doctors and nurses coming from overseas to work within the Trust. If there is an induction pack provided to such staff please provide a copy of the same;
5. Please explain the system in place within the Trust for the dissemination of information learned as a result of Coroner's Inquests or other events both within the Trust to the Board and to other Health Trusts within Northern Ireland.

Thank you for your assistance.

Yours sincerely



FIONA CHAMBERLAIN
Solicitor to the Inquiry

