

NLR/JM/ **I&S**

SKF/ **I&S**

Ms S Ratcliffe
Pryers Solicitors LLP
13 The Stonebow
York
YO1 7NP

3 October 2016

Dear Ms Ratcliffe

Re: **Child A** deceased

Thank you for your letter of 28 September 2016 which arrived whilst I was attending a conference in Durham.

I too was disappointed with the brevity of the report which I received. However, I have no power to order a hospital to conduct an investigation and still less give directions as to the nature and extent of any investigation that is undertaken.

As you will be well aware the purposes of a Coroner's Inquest is to determine how, when and where the deceased met his or her death. "How" has been judicially determined as requiring an investigation to determine the means by which the deceased met his or her death and not the general circumstances in which death occurred. Of course when Article II is engaged the situation is rather different.

I will not be adjourning the Inquest next week. It would be inappropriate for me to do so.

As you know, the Consultant Paediatric Pathologist was unable to determine the cause of death. It is to be hoped that the Pathologist with the benefit of hearing the clinical evidence may be able to give an opinion as to the cause of death although we will have to wait and see whether this turns out to be the case.

Yours sincerely

N L RHEINBERG
SENIOR CORONER FOR CHESHIRE