

Dr. William Lawler, M.D., F.R.C.Path.

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July 10th, 2006

Ms. P. Fitzmaurice,
The Robert Hamill Inquiry,
PO Box 50156,
LONDON
SW1E 6WX.

Dear Ms. Fitzmaurice,

Re: Robert HAMILL (deceased)

Thank you for sending the copies of the transcripts of the interviews with Professor Crane and Dr. Herron.

Having given this case much thought already, I read these transcripts with considerable interest. I have carefully reviewed all my opinions and conclusions in the light of these documents, and I would not wish to alter them; indeed, I still believe that my main conclusion – about the Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome – can be justified from my reading of the medical literature.

I could, if required, produce a detailed critique of both transcripts – at least where they deal with everything other than the neuropathology [REDACTED], but I am absolutely certain that whilst it may be of some academic interest, it would be of no value to the underlying purpose of the Inquiry. To put it somewhat differently, there is a serious danger that everyone will fail to see the wood for the trees!

In the light of my reading not only of the neuropathology report by Dr. Reid but also of the transcripts of the evidence given by Professor Crane and Dr. Herron, I think that the absolutely fundamental point, and one on which we are all agreed, is that the major cause for the deceased's cerebral damage following the incident at approximately 01.30 on 27.04.97 was Traumatic Diffuse Axonal Injury, and that there was only a mild and

insignificant degree of hypoxic/ischaemic damage present. In other words, it must have been the assault, in its entirety (and this would be with or without any associated fall to the ground), which was responsible for his ultimately fatal head injury (whatever the terminal mechanism), and it therefore follows that any possible delay in the provision of first aid at the scene neither contributed significantly to, nor exacerbated, this traumatic damage. The inevitable conclusion from this, therefore, is that the outcome would have been the same, even if the deceased had been given first aid immediately after the assault.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Lawler', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

WILLIAM LAWLER
Consultant Forensic Pathologist
Home Office Pathologist.