

would have recorded them as such. There were no defence injuries in this case. The marks which I saw on the arms appeared to be associated with hospital treatment.

26. At page 5 of my report which is contained at page 9563 I noted that there was dark congested oedematous tissue which is normal in patients with head injuries as the lungs become water logged. This is simply a secondary effect of a head injury and is not linked to the fatal outcome. There was no evidence of pulmonary embolus from deep venous thrombosis. If vomit or some other substance had been inhaled at the time of injury there may have been some indication at the autopsy but none was seen. I note that there was a little bruising in the muscles of the anterior abdominal wall on the right side of the front. This was not linked to any external bruising but the abdomen is quite soft and so external bruising may not result from a blow in this area.
27. After the autopsy, I was telephoned by one of the senior clinicians from the hospital, I cannot now recall who, to enquire about the results of the autopsy. It is not unusual for clinicians to take an interest in the cause of death for a patient who had been under their care. Here, I understand that there was some surprise amongst the clinicians at the suddenness of the decline in Mr Hamill's health and they raised with me the possibility that there could be a cause other than the brain injury.
28. Specifically, we considered the possibility of malignant neuroleptic syndrome and I was in discussion and correspondence with Dr Herron as to whether this was the cause of death or the head injury alone. Factors which pointed to NMS were the fact that the patient had a head injury, he had a spiked temperature and he had been given chlorpromazine. At the time of the autopsy, I was not aware of the results for the CK tests showing 924 per litre but that level of CK is not especially elevated. A raised CK level is not unusual where a patient has undergone physical trauma. I would have expected a far higher level of CK, in the thousands, in a case involving NMS.