

*septicaemia*" and then below: *"Relatively minor head injury. Probably hypoxic at the scene. Sudden collapse, ? septicaemia. Ultimate death"*.

29. I prepared the discharge summary, which is purely for the hospital records. The information recorded on it reflects the suspicion we had that the cerebral hypoxia had made the head injury worse, and that a widespread blood infection or septicaemia had caused his sudden collapse. We did not know why he had deteriorated so suddenly ten days after his injury and this seemed a reasonable theory as to the cause of death at the time.
30. I said in my police statement at page 09207, written in July 1997, that after Mr Hamill's death, *"Several possibilities were considered including the possibility of a pulmonary embolus from a deep venous thrombosis, a septicemic episode or possibly even a malignant neuroleptic syndrome which can occur occasionally and secondary to the use of neuroleptic drugs of various types"*. I have been asked why malignant neuroleptic syndrome was not included in the discharge summary, even though I referred to it in my police statement as one of the causes of death we considered. I can only assume we considered this condition subsequently. I have never seen a case of malignant neuroleptic syndrome but I know it is very rare. I cannot recall, and I cannot see from the notes, whether it was tested for, or ruled out, in Mr Hamill's case.
31. I have seen the autopsy report of Professor Crane which concludes that the cause of death is a diffuse axonal injury and I would entirely agree with him. Diffuse axonal injury is a perfectly acceptable diagnosis. A person with this condition would be unconscious, certainly in the early stages, and they might well be extremely agitated and restless, as Mr Hamill was. Diffuse axonal injury sometimes shows up on a CT scan, but more often than not it does not. The condition may cause a brain to become swollen. A second CT scan may show slightly squashed ventricles or slight haemorrhaging. Mr Hamill's second CT scan showed none of this.