

21. I would like to refer to 2 publications on this point. I note that it has been found in a study in 2000 that “only the severest acceleration-deceleration forces with or without deceleration caused diffuse axonal damage extending down into the brainstem” (Geddes, Whitwell and Graham in *Neuropathology and Applied Neurobiology* 2000, issue 26, pp 105 – 116 (110)). Although I do not have the reference to hand during this interview, there is also a 1989 paper by Adams and Graham in the journal *Histopathology* that I remember says that it is unfortunate that focal lesions are the mainstay of grading diffuse axonal injury. Accordingly I consider that while it is possible to grade the injury in the manner which Dr Reid has done in her report, I would still say that this was a severe injury.

22. I do not agree with Dr Reid when she states at page 72531 that:

“As I do not think there are haemorrhages with axon bulb formation in the corpus callosum and around the aqueduct of the mid brain I would not classify this as severe TDAI”; and

“Therefore, if they were as in traumatic diffuse axonal injury they would be Grade II as defined by Adams et al (reference 1), but it is not severe”;

23. and at page 72533

“I do not agree that there is severe traumatic diffuse axonal injury in this case. The grade of DAI is II with scattered white matter damage”

24. As indicated in the literature, the fact that there is not a focal lesion in the corpus callosum does not mean that this should not be thought of as a severe brain injury and severe axonal injury. Whilst it could be grade II if you go by the criteria, it was severe in the structures that matter. The bulk of the worst pathology in this case was in the lower brain structures, which are more critical for survival, particularly for respiration and cardiovascular function. I thought that there was severe damage in this region, and I would still say that this was a case of severe traumatic axonal injury. It may be misleading to use grading here, which could be why I did not use the grade in my report. If I had used grade II rather than grade III that may have misled Professor Crane to thinking that this was not a severe brain injury.

80443