

30 April 2014

**Ms Christine Darrah  
Clerk to the Committee for Justice  
Room 242  
Parliament Buildings  
Ballymiscaw  
Stormont  
Belfast BT4 3XX**

Dear Ms Darrah

**Legal Aid and Coroner's Courts Bill**

With reference to your letter dated 4 April addressed to Ms Mary Hinds, the Trust's former Senior Director, please see below comments on the content of the Bill.

The Trust agrees that it would be important for the Attorney General to have access to relevant information to allow him to make an informed decision as to whether to direct that an Inquest be held, in cases where the Coroner has previously decided not to.

To this end, it is important that the potential amendment to the Bill should also clearly set out what such information the Attorney General is entitled to receive.

However, the Trust considers it to be essential that this proposed power should only be exercised by the Attorney General when a decision has been made by the Coroner, on conclusion of his investigations, that an Inquest is not to be held. To do otherwise would cause the Trust serious concerns regarding duplication of process and the resultant adverse impact on resources.

I trust that these comments will be of interest.

Yours sincerely



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**Paul Cummings  
Senior Director**

