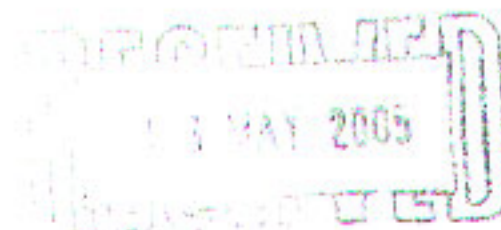


Mrs Susan Sutovic  
Sutovic & Hartigan  
271 High Street  
Acton  
London W3 9BT



7<sup>th</sup> January 2005

Dear Mrs Sutovic,

I have considered the photographs and reports that you sent in connection with the death of Peter Sutovic. The question that I consider is; does the available evidence support the stated cause and method of death as being the most likely?

This consideration can only be complete if the evidence is found to be

- a) totally consistent with the stated cause and mechanism,
- b) not consistent with any other story, and
- c) significantly more likely than any other story consistent with the evidence.

Unfortunately, the evidence of the photographs is completely compromised because they do not represent the state of the person at the time of death. There is clear evidence that blood from the face has been wiped following, probably, bleeding from the nose on to the pillow and sheet. If the victim was obviously dead (as stated) then the actions of the scene attenders is questionable.

Without at this stage going into detail, I consider that the evidence supporting drug overdose as the cause of death is insubstantial and in some instances questionable. The presence of vomited blood in a morphine overdose requires explanation. For the purpose of illustration, I would point out that Dr Shipman's victims were allegedly murdered by morphine overdose, but vomiting of blood was not a feature (vomiting may be a feature of some morphine overdoses). Phenomena such as post-mortem drug redistribution, and tolerance in known users, must also be considered when evaluating post mortem drug concentrations. I

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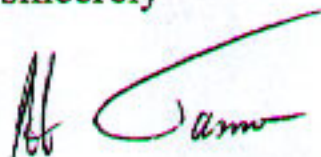
1 of 2 *HL*



note that the measured concentration is at the lower end of the range associated with fatality for non-users. Were there other physical signs of morphine overdose?

The initial handling of this case is below what should be expected, and there seems to have been little attempt to clarify matters subsequently. The evidence and story require further attention.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Allan Jamieson', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Dr Allan Jamieson BSc PhD CBiol FIBiol AIBMS MIHM  
Director, The Forensic Institute.