



# VICTORIAN INSTITUTE OF FORENSIC MEDICINE

## THIS DOCUMENT DETAILS THE NATURE AND RESULTS OF THE MEDICAL INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATH OF

**DAVID LLOYD-WILLIAMS**  
**CASE NO. A00012/23**

**My name is Linda Elizabeth ILES and my professional address is the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine, 65 Kavanagh Street, Southbank, Victoria 3006.**

**I am a registered medical practitioner practising as a specialist in forensic pathology.**

**My qualifications are Bachelor of Medicine (MB), Bachelor of Medical Science (B Med Sci) and Bachelor of Surgery (BS) with Honours, from the University of Tasmania. I am a Fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia by examination in anatomical pathology. I hold the Diploma in Medical Jurisprudence in Pathology from the Society of Apothecaries of London (DMJ (Path)), and am a founding fellow of the Faculty of Post Mortem Imaging of the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia.**

**I am employed as a Forensic Pathologist at the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine.**

**My practical experience in Forensic Pathology commenced in 2000. I commenced full time professional forensic pathology practice in Victoria in 2005. I was subsequently employed as a Consultant Forensic Pathologist in the Section of Forensic Medicine and Science at the University of Glasgow from March 2007 until January 2009 and received specialised training in Forensic Neuropathology at the University of Edinburgh. I resumed practicing forensic pathology in Victoria in July 2009.**

**I am head of Forensic Pathology Services at the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine and co-ordinate the Institute's neuropathology service.**

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## OPINION REPORT

**Case No. A00012/23**  
**Re : LLOYD-WILLIAMS deceased**

I have been requested by Ms Caitlin Heley Nash, senior solicitor assisting the Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ Hate Crimes, to review materials pertaining to the death of MR DAVID LLOYD-WILLIAMS in 1978.

### MATERIALS PROVIDED

- P79A Report of death to coroner
- Certificate of life extinct
- Toxicology report
- Post mortem report (author Dr Grace Higgins)
- Findings of city coroner Leonard James Nash
- Death Certificate
- Statement of Elizabeth Margaret Lloyd-Williams
- Statement of Anna Louisa Worton
- Statement of Herbert Charles Russell
- Report of Dr J E Hoult
- Statement of Robert Normal Steele
- Statement of Constable John Charles Mortimer (officer in charge)
- Statement of Constable Ross Perry

### SYNOPSIS OF MATERIALS

1. The body of David Lloyd-Williams, age 32 years, was found on rocks at the foot of North Head at the base of an approximately 100 meters/300 feet high cliff, on 24 August 1978. Mr Lloyd-Williams' body was observed to be washed about the shoreline by incoming waves. Mr Lloyd-Williams was last seen alive at 8:30 that morning.
2. Mr Lloyd-Williams had reportedly been suffering from a depressive disorder following separation from his wife and was seen by a psychiatrist for same.
3. No suicide note was located.

### **Autopsy Examination**

4. On 26 August 1978, Dr Grace Higgins performed an autopsy on the body of Mr Lloyd-Williams. Pertinent findings are as follows:

- a. The body of an adult male weighing 65 Kg and measuring 170 cm in height.
- b. Complete disruption of facial features.
- c. Extensive comminuted skull fractures with complete loss of brain tissue.
- d. Avulsion of the maxilla.
- e. Bilateral mandibular fractures.
- f. Nasal fracture.
- g. T4 and T5 fractures.
- h. Right 1-10 rib fractures; left 2-10 rib fractures.
- i. Left wrist fracture.
- j. 10 cm laceration between the left 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> fingers.
- k. Compound fracture over the right elbow.
- l. Left femoral fracture.
- m. Compound fracture right tibia and fibula.
- n. Multiple bruises over the lower abdomen.
- o. Abrasions over the shoulders.
- p. Obliterated pericardial sac.
- q. 2 cm right ventricular laceration.
- r. Transection of the abdominal aorta.
- s. Bilateral lung fragmentation.
- t. Approximately 1 litre of blood clot in the peritoneal cavity.
- u. Multiple liver lacerations and fragmentation.
- v. Prostate and external genitalia described as normal.
- w. Splenic lacerations.

Mr Lloyd-Williams' cause of death was given as multiple injuries.

## Toxicology

5. Toxicological analysis of blood for alcohol was undertaken; none was detected.

## QUESTIONS AND REPONSES

*Q1. Adequacy of the post mortem investigations conducted with respect to Mr Lloyd-Williams.*

Whilst the autopsy report is brief in comparison to contemporary practice, it documents extensive injuries and is clearly adequate to determine cause of death. The documentation of external cutaneous injuries is perfunctory (as was common practice at that time) and thus it is not possible to comment on the presence or absence of subtle injuries which may help inform how death occurred.

Whilst there do not appear to be issues around the identification of the deceased, given the extent of injuries described in Dr Higgins' autopsy report, a visual identification of Mr Lloyd-Williams would not be acceptable in contemporary forensic pathology practice.

*Q2. View as to the medical cause of Mr Lloyd-Williams death*

Based on the autopsy findings and the circumstances as described, a reasonable cause for Mr Lloyd-Williams' death is as follows:

I(a) Multiple injuries sustained in a fall from a height.

This is not materially different from that noted by Dr Higgins.

*Q3. View as to whether Mr Lloyd-Williams' injuries are consistent with misadventure, suicide, or foul play.*

Mr Lloyd-Williams' injuries are completely in keeping with a fall from height. The injuries themselves are not informative as to whether the fall occurred as a result of misadventure, suicide or foul play. The material provided is insufficient in terms of the presence or absence of subtle injuries to allow further comment based on autopsy findings alone. Therefore, circumstantial findings best inform the manner of Mr Lloyd-Williams' death. The circumstances as described in the materials available, suggest that suicide was most likely.

*Q4. Conclusions that can be drawn from toxicological analysis.*

Toxicological analysis was limited to assay of alcohol in blood. Mr Lloyd-Williams was not intoxicated by alcohol at the time of his death. However, the presence of other intoxicating substances or other drugs affecting Mr Lloyd-Williams' state of mind, cannot be commented on due to toxicological analysis limited only to blood.

*Q5. Recommendations for further investigations with respect to determining the manner and/or cause of Mr Lloyd-Williams' death.*

Given the limited material that is available for review, and that the cause of Mr Lloyd-Williams's death is clear, there are no medical investigations which will help further determine the manner of Mr Lloyd-Williams' death.

I, Dr Linda Iles, acknowledge for the purpose of Rule 31.23 of the Uniform Civil Procedure Rules 2005 that I have read the Expert Witness Code of Conduct in Schedule 7 to the said rules and agree to be bound by it.

I hereby acknowledge that this statement is true and correct and I make it in the belief that a person making a false statement in the circumstances is liable to penalties of perjury.



**Dr Linda E. Iles**  
**B Med Sci, MB BS (Hons), FRCPA, DMJ (Path), FFPMI (RCPA)**  
**Forensic Pathologist**  
**Head of Forensic Pathology**  
**Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine**