

roreilly

From: Ruth O'Reilly [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 September 2004 18:39
To: brian.mcavoy [REDACTED]
Subject: State Pathologist's Department

Attachments: Request re State Pathologist's Dept.doc



Request re State
Pathologist's...

Dear Brian,

Please find attached details of the nature of our programme, why we need to film inside the State Pathologist's Department, what our filming requirements would be and an enquiry as to whether Professor Crane might be in a position to furnish us with an interview.

If you need to contact me, please call me on either my mobile: [REDACTED] or direct line: [REDACTED]

Many thanks for your help so far

Ruth O'Reilly
Producer, Insight

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UTV Insight is preparing a programme about the death of Lucy Crawford and how it took four years for an inquest to be conducted into her death.

Lucy's body did NOT go to the State Pathologist's Department but a post-mortem *WAS* carried out at the Royal.

We shall be referring to Lucy's post-mortem and we need some pictures to illustrate the sort of environment it was carried out in. We simply need pictures which can show the general environment, fittings, instruments etc used in a post mortem.

However, should Professor Crane be prepared to do an interview about some of the issues raised in this case, it would be most helpful. We would wish to go into how causes of death are ascertained, how they are communicated and how loopholes may prevent a body going to the State Pathologist's Department for a proper and official post-mortem.

FOR BACKGROUND

Lucy was seventeen months old when she was admitted to the Erne Hospital on the evening of April 12 2000, suffering from gastroenteritis. Her parents had been advised to have her admitted for fluid replacement.

A line was inserted at 2300hrs and she collapsed just under four hours later. She was transferred to the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children brain dead and she died on April 14. Her inquest (held in February this year) concluded that she suffered I (a) cerebral oedema (b) acute dilutional hyponatraemia (c) excess dilute fluid; II Gastroenteritis.

However this diagnosis did NOT make it onto the original record at the time of Lucy's death. Her death certificate originally showed: I (a) Cerebral Oedema; (b) Dehydration; (c) Gastroenteritis.

At the opening of Lucy's Inquest, on February 17 2004, the Coroner for Greater Belfast, John Leckey, set out what happened when Lucy died as follows:

"On April 14 2000 Dr Donncha Hanrahan, who is a Consultant in Paediatric Neurology at the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children, telephoned my office to report the death of Lucy Crawford aged 17 months. Lucy had died that day in the hospital's Paediatric Intensive Care Unit following transfer from the Erne Hospital the previous day. The clinical history given was of gastroenteritis, dehydration and brain swelling. Advice was then sought from a pathologist attached to the State Pathologist's Department as to whether the clinical history warranted a coroner's post-mortem being carried out. Following a consultation between the pathologist and Dr Hanrahan, my office was advised that it would be appropriate for a death certificate to be issued giving gastroenteritis as the cause of death."