

Trevor Birney

From: Trevor Birney [REDACTED]
Sent: 23 April 2004 16:14
To: Christine Stewart
Subject: RE: UTV Insight - Lucy Crawford case.

Thanks Christine, hope to talk to you next week.

Cheers.
Trevor.

Trevor Birney
Editor, Current Affairs
Ulster Television

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-----Original Message-----

From: Christine Stewart [REDACTED]
Sent: 23 April 2004 15:54
To: Trevor Birney
Subject: RE: UTV Insight - Lucy Crawford case.

Trevor

Got your e mail. I have asked Dr Hanrahan for guidance on the issues you raised. I'll get back to you ASAP

Regards

Christine

-----Original Message-----

From: Trevor Birney [REDACTED]
Sent: 23 April 2004 11:45
To: Christine Stewart
Subject: UTV Insight - Lucy Crawford case.

Christine,

Further to my recent conversation with you in relation to the death of Lucy Crawford, I want to request a briefing from the RVH.

In April, 2000, Lucy was transferred to the Royal from the Erne Hospital. She was effectively dead when she left Enniskillen and only survived a few hours before the life support machine was turned off. At the recent inquest into her death, Coroner John Leckey found that Lucy had died from cerebral oedema caused by dilutional hyponatraemia.

However, a "localised" post mortem carried out by Dr. Dennis O'Hara at the Royal found that she had died of gastroenteritis - which she had been suffering from when admitted to the Erne. Nowhere in his report did he mention hyponatraemia.

Some of those involved in the case are now pointing to this failure to find the exact cause of death as something of a concern.

However, as in the past, the Royal will have a completely different perspective on this. We have already identified issues surrounding Lucy's notes which were not delivered to the Hospital for Sick Children with Lucy but only arrived by fax several hours later.

I would like to speak to someone in relation to the following areas:

UTV

1. What was Lucy's condition when she arrived at the Royal? How critical was the failure of the Erne to send Lucy's notes with her? 2. Why was the post mortem carried out by a paediatric pathologist at the Royal? 3. What is the Royal's understanding of the exact cause of death? 4. How many cases of dilutional hyponatraemia in children has the Royal seen in the past 10 years? We are aware of the death of a children called Adam Strain in 1995 and of another case involving a 14-year-old girl who almost died from hyponatraemia and later took a case against the hospital.

Dr. Donncha Hanrahan, Consultant paediatric anaesthetist, was involved in Lucy's treatment and gave critical evidence at the inquest and may be the person who would be most appropriate. At this stage, we would welcome an off-the-record conversation. We do not envisage requesting a formal interview.

You can give me a call on [REDACTED] at any time to go over this.

Cheers.

Trevor.

Trevor Birney
Editor, Current Affairs
Ulster Television

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