

**Trevor Birney**

---

**From:** Trevor Birney [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 19 May 2004 15:08  
**To:** Christine Stewart  
**Subject:** RE: Lucy Crawford

Christine,

Thank-you for your reply.

It is disappointing, to say the least, that the Royal doesn't have anyone who can give us advice on issues of such public importance.

However, can I ask a further couple of questions?

1. Does the pathologist or the Dr. (in this case Dr. Hanrahan) take the ultimate decision on whether a Coroner's post mortem should be carried out?
2. Which pathologist did Dr. Hanrahan speak to following Lucy's death?
3. Has the Royal revised any of its practices in relation to the death of infants following Lucy's death?

Talk to you soon

Trevor.

Trevor Birney  
Editor, Current Affairs  
Ulster Television

This e-mail, and any attachment, is confidential. If you have received it in error, please delete it from your system, do not use or disclose the information in any way and notify me immediately. The contents of this message may contain personal views, which are not the views of UTV unless specifically stated.

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

**From:** Christine Stewart [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17 May 2004 15:36  
**To:** Trevor Birney  
**Subject:**

Trevor

In reply to your e mail of May 5

Our consultants have declined the offer to talk further about the Lucy Crawford case, feeling that they said everything relevant at the inquest.

However regarding your queries about the local post mortem, I have some information which may be of use.

It would be normal procedure for the Royal to involve a paediatric pathologist in this type of case (sudden death of a child).

As to why the localised post mortem recorded a different cause of death to the coroner's findings – the localised post mortem recorded the condition which being present led to the death.

Using the example of meningitis; one person could say meningitis, another multi organ failure, and another heart attack; and they would all be right to some degree. Guidance from pathologists is that the cause of death is the condition without which the person would not have died, meningitis in this example.

Regarding the number of deaths from dilutional hyponatraemia – We are aware of two cases in which the coroner has suggested dilutional hyponatraemia as a cause of death. The coroners office could possibly elaborate as I am bound by patient confidentiality.

regards

Christine