

Trevor Birney

From: Christine Stewart [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 September 2004 14:35
To: Trevor Birney
Subject: RE: Death of Lucy Crawford

Trevor

The coroner was not misled by the Royal. The initial illness was gastroenteritis which led to dehydration.

Dr Hanrahan has nothing further to add to the detailed evidence he gave at the inquest, as part of the Health Service's continued efforts to support the family by clarifying what happened.

regards
Christine

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

From: Trevor Birney [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 September 2004 10:33
To: Christine Stewart
Subject: FW: Death of Lucy Crawford

Christine,

There appears to be a misunderstanding of what we are asking.

On page three of the post mortem report compiled by pathologist, Dr. M. D. O'Hara is Lucy Crawford's clinical history, provided by Specialist Registrar, Paediatrics, Dr. Caroline Stewart. She states:

1. Clinical Diagnosis: Dehydration and hyponatraemia. Cerebral oedema – acute coning and brain stem death.

Dr. Stewart's clinical history was provided while Lucy was still alive. Therefore, we acknowledge that the Post Mortem report was absolutely, 100 per cent correct, therefore:

Our question is: **Given that Dr. Caroline Stewart, along with Peter Crean, (according to his evidence at Lucy Crawford's inquest) had correctly diagnosed Lucy's condition before her death, why did Dr. Hanrahan not tell the Coroner's office what Dr. Stewart and, more importantly, what Dr. Crean had diagnosed, ie, hyponatraemia?**

Why did he give a cause of death, which, in fact, was a medical contradiction? Our expert evidence is that is impossible to die from dehydration AND cerebral oedema. Simply put, dehydration causes the brain to shrink – cerebral oedema is caused by brain swelling.

From the Crawford family's point of view, the Royal, and particularly Dr. Hanrahan, has never explained why it did not tell the Coroner nor the pathologist that Lucy had died of hyponatraemia.

This is despite, Peter Crean telling Lucy's inquest that he had diagnosed hyponatraemia. Mr. Crean has also made it known privately that he, in fact, told the Coroner himself that she had died of hyponatraemia, yet the Coroner's office has no record of him doing so.

In other words, we can state categorically due to the documentary evidence provided by the Royal itself that the Coroner was misled. We are simply offering Dr. Hanrahan the opportunity to explain why he did so.

We feel it would be important that the contents of this e-mail are also shared with Dr. Crean and Dr

Stewart, although, I believe, she is now working in Antrim.

Best wishes,
Trevor.

Trevor Birney
Editor, Current Affairs
Ulster Television

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

From: Christine Stewart [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 September 2004 14:26
To: Trevor Birney
Subject: RE: Death of Lucy Crawford

Trevor

There is no question of anyone in the Royal Hospitals having misled the office of the Coroner as to the cause of Lucy Crawford's death.

Can I refer you back to my e mail of May 17.

'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.'

I have discussed your request with Dr Hanrahan, and he has nothing further to add.

regards

Christine

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

From: Trevor Birney [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 September 2004 16:44
To: Christine Stewart
Cc: roeilly@ [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Death of Lucy Crawford
Importance: High

Christine,

As you are no doubt well aware, we are continuing to examine the events surrounding the death of Lucy Crawford.

In the programme, we are going to identify Dr. Donncha Hanrahan as having misled the office of the Coroner for Greater Belfast as to the real cause of Lucy's death.

We feel it is only appropriate that we gave Dr. Donncha Hanrahan the opportunity to explain his actions.

To give him a chance to explain, we wish to put a question to Dr. Hanrahan.

1. Why did you tell the Coroner's office that Lucy Crawford had died of gastroenteritis when that the knowledge within the hospital on the day of her death was that she had died of hyponatraemia?

I look forward to your reply.

Trevor Birney
Editor, Current Affairs
Ulster Television

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

From: Christine Stewart [REDACTED]
Sent: 28 June 2004 12:47
To: Trevor Birney
Subject:

Trevor

I've spoken with Dr Hanrahan - he feels that he is unable to help.

sorry I can't be more helpful

Christine

Christine Stewart
Press and Public Relations Officer
Royal Hospitals