

## Trevor Birney

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**From:** Trevor Birney [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 23 April 2004 16:39  
**To:** Sarah.Woods@ [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Chief Medical Officer.

Sarah,

As Editor of Current Affairs at UTV in Belfast, we've communicated before in relation to health matters.

We are currently researching a programme on "untoward" deaths in hospitals in the UK.

On the subject, I have a couple of questions which I hope you can answer:

1. If there is an "untoward" death in an English or Welsh hospital that may or may not be as a result of medical negligence, what role does the Chief Medical Officer play in the aftermath?
2. In the first instance, what structures are in place to alert him to the death and how long have they been in place?
3. What statutory obligation is on the Trust involved to report the death?

I would be deeply appreciative if you could give me some direction with these. If you have any queries do not hesitate to contact me on [REDACTED]

I look forward to hearing from you.

Trevor Birney  
Editor, Current Affairs  
Ulster Television

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