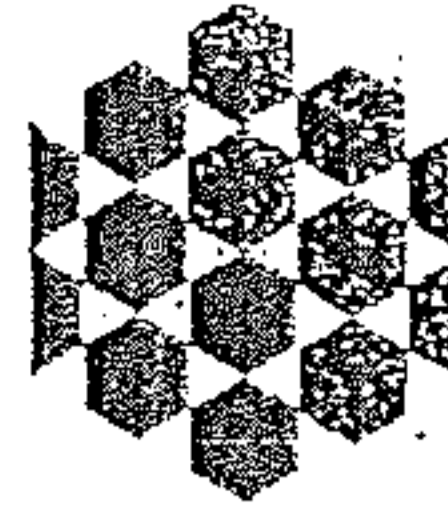


From the Chief Medical Officer
Dr Henrietta Campbell CB



Department of
**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**

An Roinn

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

1 APR 2004

Mr Alan Bremner
UTV Controller
Havelock House
Ormeau Road
BELFAST

Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
Belfast BT4 3SQ

Tel:
Fax:
Email:

Your Ref:
Our Ref:
Date: 29 March 2004

Dear Sir

I was asked to appear on "The Issue" programme on Thursday, 25 March 2004. I agreed to appear having been assured by Trevor Birney that the while the interview would be challenging it would be straightforward and for my part non-controversial.

On arriving at the studio I was treated in a very abrupt and off-hand manner and was ushered to the interview table with no briefing from the production team. The interviewer was Fearghal McKinney. He then conducted the interview in an extremely aggressive and bullying manner. On at least three occasions I asked him to allow me to answer his questions as I felt that I was being given no opportunity to speak. When the interview was over I asked Mr McKinney why he had treated me with such anger. In his reply it was clear to me that he and the production team thought that I was "fair game". It was also evident that Fearghal McKinney had chosen to ignore briefing from our press office which had clearly outlined my role and responsibilities.

As a public servant and as Chief Medical Officer, I recognise the role that the media has to play. However, I do not believe that my treatment by the team on The Issue was acceptable. I have been and remain deeply distressed by the event and feel that I was bullied and harassed.

I have been approached by UTV on numerous occasions in the past 10 years to contribute to various programmes. I believe that I have at all times been gracious and accommodating, often going out of my way to contribute. That relationship has been jeopardised.

I would welcome an explanation surrounding the events of last Thursday. I would also ask for an apology for the dishonesty and lack of integrity of the production team prior to the interview and for the verbal harassment I received from Fearghal McKinney.

Yours sincerely

Dr Henrietta Campbell

UTV



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