

RAY AND MARIE FERGUSON JUNE 7 2004

The question we have here you know whenever you hear about Lucy how do you feel about what happened to Lucy?

What happened about Lucy I was very saddened by the fact Lucy was such a beautiful girl and my heart just went out to the family because I know what they are going through. About the fact that it took two and half to three years for it to come to the Coroners Court and if it had of came a wee bit sooner I know I could of saved Raychel life.

How do you feel about Lucy and what happened to Lucy?

I was very saddened when I heard because Lucy she was a lovely wee girl and I felt very sad for the parents knowing the dreadful circumstances and how Lucy died and the fact that it took 2 ½ years to come to the Coroner's Court. I was saddened because I feel as if it had of came sooner then I could of prevented Raychel's life. I could of saved Raychel's life.

Whenever you heard about Lucy you obviously heard about Lucy in the past year or so how did you feel when you heard that Lucy had died of the same condition that Raychel and a year before Raychel?

It was unbelievable, if they had of brought it to light a bit sooner, Raychel would still be here today. Well I believe that Raychel should have been hear anyway even without bringing it up to date if they had of brought it sooner Raychel should have been here definitely here.

I would of made Doctors and nurses more aware what to look out for.

Do you have and feeling you have been in contact with the parents do suspicions about what happened in Lucy's case?

Something is definitely wrong in Lucy's case I think. They should have investigated it a bit more and definitely what has come out in the coroner's case now. And it took 3yrs later to come to a coroner's case because it's the same circumstances as Raychel that the reason it went back to the coroner's case.

26:04 - 26:25
I believe that this was a cover up but why? The doctor that investigated Lucy's case apparently he was from Altnagelvin. I feel really angry at that because Altnagelvin has failed us again with that doctor investigating it.

Whenever just, actually to move to happened to yourself its has been happened to Raychel that night. Can you just actually pinpoint what happened that night at where you feel Raychel was failed?

Well they never listened to us, if they had of listened to us a the start as we kept going out to him each time Raychel was sick or something went wrong they never listened to us once. They just told us that's natural everything is just natural.

And then I think Raychel's serious point he was whenever she was throwing up the blood and complaining of a severe headache she put her hands to her head then definitely doctors and nurses should have took more heed but they didn't. Saying that they would give her 2 paracetamol to me the nurse where not listening – bad management definitely.

Whenever Raychel took a turn for the worst then as well she was transferred from Altnagelvin to the Royal and its turned out the same thing happened with Lucy. Do you think that was because there was something that they could have done for her?

We were lead to believe that Altnagelvin has us convinced that she was going for and operation and a week later then we did not know if she had brain damage or not. I believe that she sent Raychel to the Royal to be just passing the buck they know that they done wrong. Maybe they were hoping that the Royal could fix it. May be they were just closing ranks down at the Royal. Definitely especially when wee Lucy got moved to the Royal as well.

And then as far as, after Raychel died and you had the whole shock of that. What was the contact with the hospital?

There was no contact at all it was three months after Raychel died I contacted them because I wanted to what happened and whenever I went over to meet with them the said that Raychel died of a very rare thing. And I particularly remember this nurse sat back and folded her arms she said that she had not cause for concern that they had done their best. Which I don't believe that – there best wasn't good enough - definitely not. And from then on we had no contact with the hospital not as much as a card on her anniversary or even a letter to say –all she done was a statement in the papers. It was through the media that they were. It's the only thing we got to see.

Did they explain what the condition was?

No they didn't ^{29/23} know what it was they said it was a rare thing? They had never seen it before but then when we went to Raychel's inquest we learned that every first year medical student is taught this. I found that very I just couldn't believe if they were taught it then they just weren't listening. ^{29/24}

At what stage did you become aware it was the hospital that actually caused this?

30:01 - 30:25

It was really at Raychel's inquest that Dr Saunders's????? calls it too. So the hospital did cause it. I know at the time when we were waiting on the results of what happened to Raychel I was in contact with the coroner a few times and when this day when I phoned him I asked him did Raychel die of natural causes and he said no. So I said this so you're telling me that Raychel would of been still here today if she hadn't of went into hospital he more or less said yes.

How did that make you feel?

I went upstairs and roared and cried and banging and slamming things you so angry. I really wanted to go over to the hospital I just couldn't believe how they could do this to Raychel -do this to us. And even what they put Raychel through I remember lying on the bed and how sick she was like what was she not thinking those last you know. That will always hunt me what she was thinking but.

I mean the fact that the hospital didn't volunteer that information as well must make you feel quite hurt.

I believe they knew what was going on and they wouldn't tell us nothing and they would tell us nothing and thought this and then something else and thought it was meningitis and its not. I really believe they knew what was going on they never came across and told us they just said it was a rare thing they told me but I wouldn't go and meet them because I was so angry I still am.

It seems that from getting very little contact from the hospital what way does that leave you?

Really angry because they caused the death of Raychel and now they are just sitting back as if they didn't do anything wrong and I thought the least that they would say that they are sorry or just admit that they done wrong. Dr Saunders said that they done wrong the failed Raychel and why will they not come forward they are putting us through hell. The inquest is over and now we have a court case coming up now. It's taking its toll on everything. We are actually suing its not for money its to get the answers them to get the answers and someone to be held accountable for what happened.

And in terms of what can you describe the whole route that you have had to take over the past four years to try and get answers and to try and get accountability what doors you have had to go knocking on?

Well we had to go through solicitors they are doing all the work for us the media the papers they are helping to. And we are hoping that a lot of people have contacted us with similar circumstances just a bit at a time and hope we will get somewhere at the end of the day.

What do you think what happened to Raychel was bad enough but if there was something that you could change in the system for whenever there is an accident, whenever a hospital causes a death what sort of system way do you think it should be done.

I always hoped when someone has done something wrong that someone should be held accountable. It's their job to know what they are doing and if they don't they should get someone else to show what is wrong. That's what I believe they should be held accountable. Because the next time they might take more heed. They would do their jobs?????? And be held accountable. Is it the Trust or who ever to cover up for them?

When you say this has taken its toll its bound to be very difficult to loose a child anyway but in these circumstances do you think it is more difficult?

I think so because Raychel was a healthy wee girl and had never anything wrong with her never sick and the first time ever in hospital and this is what happens.

First time she was ever at the hospital and this is what happens I would never trust them again. You doubt yourself if anything happened the other boys you panicking even taking them to the hospital its just a fear what they done to us already you are feared its going to happen again and praying that it doesn't.

Since in the past couple of months there have been a bit of focus on the Chief Medical Officer and the Coroner a couple of months back we had the Chief Medical Officer saying that had she of known and if the Coroner had made her aware of what had happened then possibly then Raychel would be alive do you think that was fair?

I think Raychel should be still here if they had listened to us at the start they think we are fussy parents if they had listened to us Raychel would be still here today. They would of done more test and they didn't do tests.

As far as the threat is concerned do think the Coroner's to blame?

Maybe in a bit but I still think its still bad management on her behalf she should know what is going on in her hospital and I feel that the nurses that was involved with Raychel when were they last updated on the fluids that had been given does Henrietta Campbell check these things. We don't know if they are updated on anything at all in that ward 6 its post op and its two different patient's all together. We don't know if they are highly trained for this or is it one nurse for post op or early medical patients who come in for lesser things. We don't if they are each year or how long is it.

As far as you are concerned when something goes wrong is there any openness?

No there is no openness at all as far as we are concerned they just close ranks everything is closed up.

Just to go on to the subject of the Chief Medical Officer she has written to you offering to meet you.

She has she did so a few months back but as yet we have not met with her because we are still angry at the fact that she sent a letter I mean it was three years to late. Why didn't she do that whenever Raychel died at the start? In the letter she said that she would be willing to listen to what we would have to say to see if we could change things but I don't think she will listen to us. I don't think she will listen to us at all.

Do you think she should resign?

Its up to her its in her conscience if she thinks she is doing a good job its up to her. I don't believe she is she doesn't seem to know what is going on in her hospitals bad management again.

To just go back to what we have here its four years on and what is life like for you now?

Constant pain and emptiness – every morning you get up you go in to her room you expect her to be there you know but everything has been ruined. Our life is up side down spent at the cemetery most of the time. And then you have the other three boys its just constant pain that just what it is like. And there is no way that we want any other family to go through what we had to go thorough but.

Can you think of what would ease the pain anything?

No nothing will ever ease the pain – even if some one was held accountable its still not going to ease the pain we lost a beautiful daughter. Through pure neglect we lost Raychel and we will never forgive theme for that.

Is there anything else that you think you want to say?

How far are you prepared to go to see this through to get what you want?

We are prepared to go to the Court of European Rights we are going to go as far as we can. That mean to the end of the world as long as we are brave and healthy we will go to the bitter end until someone is held accountable and some one to put up their hands we definitely done wrong here and change the whole system. Something needs changed badly they are getting away with it –definitely.