

1-5-04.
Regarding Conroy

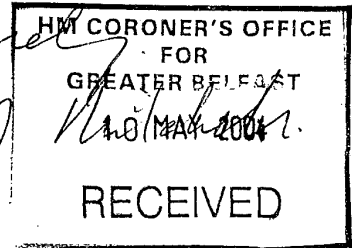
Dear Elaine.

Enclosed is a copy of the newspaper article I mentioned to you. I was told that this was also in the larger Mail.

This Belfast Telegraph article is dated 20th May; we had forgotten about this until I accidentally came across it in a cupboard.

Many thanks Elaine.

Sincerely
Joy



stop be
for the
Of) sum-
fter mid-
3ST).

It has been tough," the
breathless 26-year-old
climber told the Belfast
Telegraph yesterday af-

Following the more popular
route on the southern
side.

See page 3

twenties, were sitting with
the children as they had
juice and biscuits. She said
that during this time, a
two-year-old was running
about and refused to sit
down.

She alleged Montgomery

obs

Top hospital 'at risk' over staffing levels

By Nigel Gould
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

A TOP doctor has warned
that one of Ulster's key hos-
pitals was "running at risk"
in some areas over staffing
levels.

Dr Liam McCaughey's
shock revelation about
Craigavon Area Hospital —
a member of the so-called
Golden Six elite — was re-
vealed during the Trust's
monthly meeting.

Dr McCaughey, the hos-
pital's former medical di-
rector, pointed out that the
Trust was "continuously
running low" on nurse
staffing in key areas such as
ICU, Theatres, Paediatrics
and Accident and Emergen-
cy.

And he said that he be-
lieved the Trust was run-
ning at risk in some areas.

The meeting also heard
there was a risk in having

such a low ratio of staff to
patients and that not
enough resources were
made available to fund staff
and not enough nurses were
available to appoint to
posts.

The hospital's nursing di-
rector, John Mone, said he
did not believe the Trust
was currently running at an
unsafe level but he con-
firmed staff were working
"under great pressure".

And he gave his assur-
ance that he would not hold
back on the employment of
extra staff if a risk to the
safety of patients existed.

Earlier this year,
Craigavon brought in 50
nurses from the Philippines
to bolster nursing short-
ages.

Last week, the Belfast
Telegraph revealed that
nearly 600 overseas nurses
were now employed in the
NHS across Northern Ire-

land.

But despite the influx of
nursing staff from all over
the world, including the
Philippines, India, Africa,
Palestine, Bulgaria and Yu-
goslavia, there are still mas-
sive staffing shortages in
both our hospitals and the
community.

Currently, there are va-
cancies for more than 800
nurses, midwives and
health visitors across the
province.

A spokeswoman for
Craigavon Trust said: "Man-
aging the risk in relation to
gaps in staffing, while en-
suring the continuity and
quality of service, are pri-
orities for the senior man-
agement team.

"The Trust is confident
that services are not unsafe
and are monitored on an
on-going basis to ensure
that the quality of services is
maintained."

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BELFAST TELEGRAPH TUESDAY MAY 20 2003