



U5 NOV 2004

Ombudsman Northern Ireland

4 November 2004

Our Ref:- HC 24/04

Mr Clive Gowdy CB
Permanent Secretary
Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety
Room C.5.22
Castle Buildings
Stormont
BELFAST BT4 3SJ

Dear

Mr Gowdy

Mr Owens

Pl ensure that Mr O'Hara is aware of this. I will write to the Deputy Ombudsman after our meeting next Wednesday.

[Signature]
5/11/04

THE COMMISSIONER FOR COMPLAINTS (NI) ORDER 1996 (AS AMENDED)

The Commissioner received a complaint on 19 October 2004 from Mr and Mrs N Crawford of [redacted] Enniskillen in respect of the Sperrin Lakeland Health and Social Care Trust's handling of their complaint arising from the death of their daughter, Lucy, who was admitted to the Erne hospital on 12 April 2000. Essentially they complain that, in light of the findings of the Coroner's Inquest in February 2004, the Trust's handling of their complaint has been shown to have been seriously flawed.

The Commissioner was Chief Executive of the Western Health and Social Services Board at the time of Lucy Crawford's death and has accordingly delegated the case to me for consideration.

I have not yet decided whether the complaint is one which I should investigate however I understand from media reports that the Department has decided to set up an Inquiry which may cover some elements of the case with which I am dealing.

To enable me to complete my preliminary consideration of the complaint I should be grateful if you would provide me with details of:

- the terms of reference of the Inquiry,
- the powers of the Inquiry to require the production of evidence and attendance of witnesses,

ASSEMBLY OMBUDSMAN FOR NORTHERN IRELAND
NORTHERN IRELAND COMMISSIONER FOR COMPLAINTS

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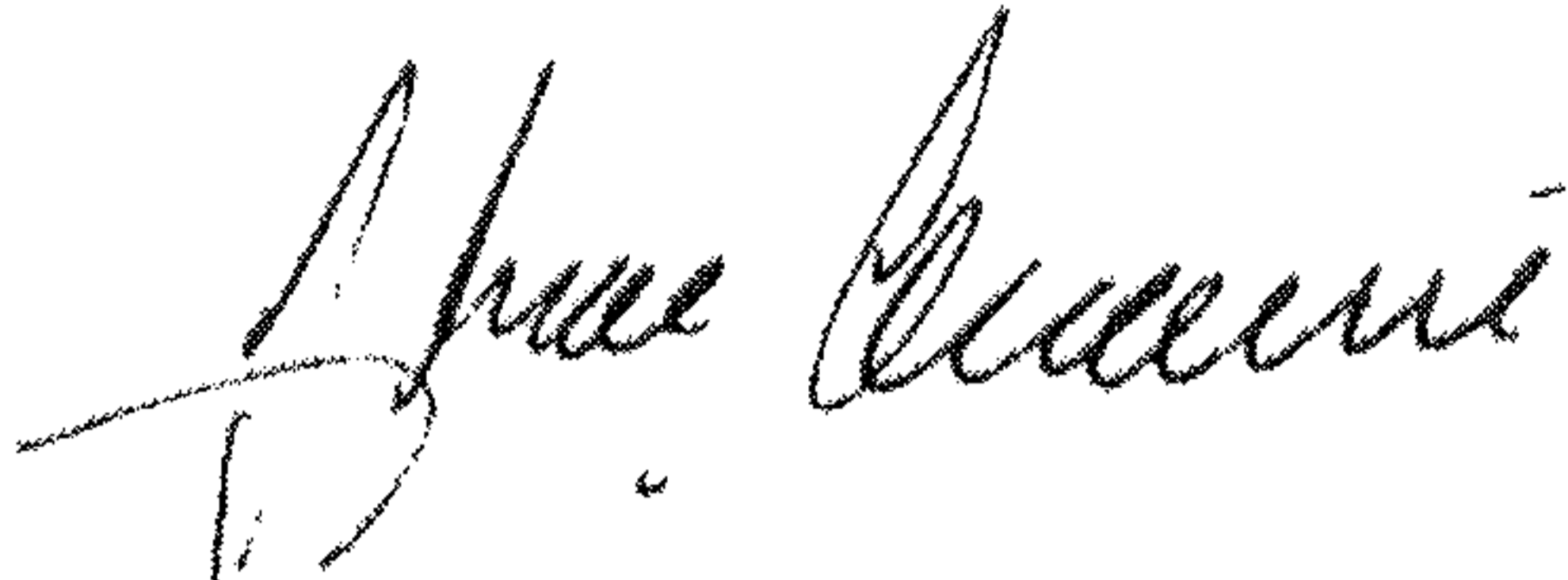
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DHSSPS-C Gowdy

- whether the Inquiry is being established on a statutory basis and, if so, which legislation is involved.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



J. MacQUARRIE
Deputy Commissioner