

Norris, Hilary

From: Maguire, Philip
Sent: 01 November 2004 10:52
To: Gowdy, Clive
Cc: Simpson, Paul; Campbell, Dr Henrietta; Hill, Don; Hamilton, Andrew; Baxter, Clare; Edgar, Leona; Moore, Martin; Gardner, Jeremy; Dempster, Lesley; Lindsay, Sharon
Subject: PSNI/Lucy Crawford

Secretary

Henry McDonald on Page 2 of yesterday's Sunday Observer, had a substantial piece reporting that PSNI will be questioning up to a dozen doctors under caution over the deaths of children in NI hospitals. A spokesperson for PSNI confirmed that a Senior Investigating Officer has been appointed to 'investigate cases relating to the deaths of a number of children in hospital.' McDonald then reveals that he understands that Jim Gault based at Maydown Police Station in Derry will lead the investigation which is likely to take up to six months.

Obviously this may confuse the public with two NI investigations plus the General Medical Council investigation, so establishing clear roles for each will be necessary. It raises the question as well about whether it overrides our investigation.

We can also expect news of the PSNI investigation to run on UTV news tonight.

Happy to discuss and will follow later today with info on how we make our announcement. The Observer article is contributing in this morning's cuts-can supply immediate copy.

Happy to discuss.

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Subject: RE: PSNI/Lucy Crawford

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Subject: RE: PSNI/Lucy Crawford

It might be better to postpone the announcement of an investigation anyway in light of the PAC hearing tomorrow as we might be accused of trying to bury the investigation under the cover of the PAC hearing or vice versa.

Clare

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Subject: RE: PSNI/Lucy Crawford

Paul

I suspect Henry McDonald would have sources within PSNI which would have alerted him to this, as with other issues. Your comments re PSNI letting us know are spot on though. At the very least their press office should have picked up the phone and alerted us. I will be pursuing this with them.

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Subject: RE: PSNI/Lucy Crawford

Secretary

the Fermanagh Herald has now inquired about our position re the PSNI inquiry, are we having an inquiry, will recommendations be made public, will action be taken against any guilty parties? Perhaps we can discuss a line to take covering all of this after you have had the chance to discuss postponement of our announcement with the Minister. Fermanagh Herald's deadline is tomorrow morning.

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