

ALTNAGELVIN HOSPITALS HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES TRUST**DIRECTORATE OF CLINICAL SUPPORT SERVICES****CONFIDENTIAL****BRIEFING NOTES – INSIGHT PROGRAMME**

Sequence of events to date:

1. Trevor Birney rang in early June 2004. He asked if the Trust could arrange for him to interview Dr Quinn regarding a programme about the deaths of Lucy Crawford and Rachel Ferguson and particularly about hyponatraemia. I said that since I understood Dr Quinn was acting independently when he provided his report on the death of Lucy Crawford, it would not be appropriate to go through the Trust but I would check the position. He also asked to interview Mrs. Burnside. After speaking to Mrs. Burnside, I went back to him and said, as agreed with Mrs. Burnside: "Dr. Quinn was not acting on behalf of the Trust".
2. On 9th June 2004, Mr. Birney rang again. A summary of my conversation with him is attached.
3. I discussed this conversation with Mrs. Burnside, Colm Shannon at the DHSSPS, Theresa Brown and Dr. Nesbitt. The Department's advice was not to do any interviews. A statement (attached, dated 15th June 2004) was drawn up and cleared with the CMO. A copy was sent to Hugh Mills. Trevor Birney was not happy that Dr Nesbitt would not be available for interview.
4. On 16th June, Trevor Birney rang again with additional questions. A copy of the details of those questions and other key points from that conversation are attached.
5. Responses to the latest questions were drafted and agreed with the CEX. A copy was sent to the CMO for clearance and to Hugh Mills for information.
6. Nothing further was heard over the summer months from Trevor Birney. On Tuesday 31st August 2004, his producer, Ruth O'Reilly, emailed me asking for a photo of Dr Quinn. I advised that I did not have a photo. I asked if she had a transmission date for the programme and she said it had not been agreed and was unlikely to be in the next few weeks. I advised Mrs. Burnside and Colm Shannon of this contact. It was agreed that myself, Colm, a rep from SLT and the Royal would meet to discuss the situation and ensure we were all fully informed about each other's position. We met at Castle Buildings on Thursday 2nd September 2004.

7. It was agreed that Colm would pursue clearance by the CMO of Altnagelvin's proposed response which had been sent to him in June. It has now been cleared and is attached.
8. It was recommended that we do not send out this response unless Trevor comes back looking for it.
9. It was agreed that none of us – Trusts or the Department – would be fielding anyone for interview, unless the situation changes in which case Colm would consider asking the Minister to be interviewed.

Contact details:

Colm Shannon, DHSSPS [REDACTED]

S. M. Dunne
3rd September 2004