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MARK CARRUTHERS

The deaths of two children need not have happened, according to the Government's top doctor. The Chief Medical Officer, Doctor Etta Campbell, in an exclusive television interview for BBC Newsline, said that the death of a 17-month old baby following treatment at the Erne Hospital in Enniskillen was entirely preventable. Doctor Campbell told BBC Newsline that had a fuller picture of the child's death been known sooner, it could have prevented a second tragedy a year later.

DONNA TRAYNOR

The case of the toddler, Lucy Crawford, was highlighted at her inquest last month. The coroner found she died after errors in her treatment. She'd been given too much fluids to treat dehydration. Another child, 9-year old Raychel Ferguson, died in similar circumstances. Both cases are now under investigation by Doctor Campbell who's been speaking to BBC Newsline's Julian O'Neill.

JULIAN O'NEILL

Doctor Jarleth O'Donoghue, the consultant in charge of Lucy Crawford's care at the Erne Hospital, leaves her inquest last month. The General Medical Council is deciding whether or not to investigate him. Also examining the case is Northern Ireland's Chief Medical Officer. She's received new paperwork on the toddler's death from the coroner, who found errors in treatment caused Lucy's death in 2000.

DR ETTA CAMPBELL

Lucy's death was entirely preventable. I think we've learnt that very early on and certainly from the inquest that has become very clear. It is of paramount importance to the Health Service that that should never happen again.

LC-SLT

JULIAN O'NEILL

This is 9-year old Raychel Ferguson from Londonderry. She died at Altnagelvin Hospital a year after Lucy, again as a result of the incorrect administration of fluids. Her parents are suing and are angry that the lessons of Lucy's death were not learned in time.

RAY FERGUSON

If the doctors had have known about it, our Raychel would still be here today. She'd be still here today. I do believe, do feel and believe she'd be here if they had have knew about the Crawford's case, our Raychel would still be here. They'd have treated her a lot different. Words can't explain, you just feel empty all the time. You do feel empty.

MARIE FERGUSON

You're living, but you're in a different world, to be honest with you. It's changed our whole lives completely.

JULIAN O'NEILL

The Chief Medical Officer now accepts there was a potentially fatal flaw in the system.

DR ETTA CAMPBELL

On looking back at the issues, I think if we'd had an early inquest into Lucy's death, then it might have been that the death of Raychel might never have happened. We have to recognise that. What the coroner has now agreed is that he will draw to our attention very early on those deaths about which he has concern.

JULIAN O'NEILL

New medical procedures were put in place in 2002. But so concerned is Doctor Campbell, that she has now written to each health trust to ensure that they are being followed to the letter.