

News Release



Department of
**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**
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MINISTER ANNOUNCES CHILD DEATHS INQUIRY

Minister with responsibility for Health, Social Services and Public Safety, Angela Smith, today announced that she has appointed Mr John O'Hara QC to conduct an inquiry into the issues raised by the recent UTV Insight programme 'When Hospitals Kill'.

The Minister said: "I regard it as very important that the general public should have confidence in the health service and in the standards of performance of all who work in it. This television programme has raised a number of serious issues and allegations which need to be investigated.

"The death of a child is tragic and is something which my Department takes very seriously. I have spoken to the families who were involved in the programme and have told them that there will be a fully independent investigation.

"I am grateful to John O'Hara for agreeing to undertake this inquiry and I know that he will pursue a rigorous investigation of the issues.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

1. The UTV Insight programme 'When Hospitals Kill' was broadcast on Thursday, 21 October 2004. It focused on the death of three children, Lucy Crawford, Raychel Ferguson and Adam Strain.

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