

From: Hall Janet
Sent: 02 November 2004 13:20
To: Anne McGarvey; Bridget O'Rawe; Briege Donaghy; Chairman (H Mullan); Colm McCauley; Diana Cody; Donna McHugh; Eugene Fee; Gabriel Carey; Gerry McLaughlin; Hugh Mills; Irvine Jenny; Mary Maguire; Shortt Dinah; Vincent Ryan
Cc: McGlone Michelle
Subject: INDEPENDENT CHILD DEATH INQUIRY
Importance: High



MINISTER ANNOUNCES
INQUIRY.DO...

PR627.DOC

In relation to the above, please find attached a copy of the Minister's statement issued yesterday evening, and one issued by the Trust earlier this morning.

Best wishes.

Janet

Michelle - could you print off and send out to Mr Grogan - thanks.

Janet Hall
Communications/public affairs manager
Sperrin Lakeland Trust
Trust Headquarters
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-----Original Message-----

From: Baxter, Clare [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, November 01, 2004 06:32
To: Hall Janet; Jo McGinley (E-mail); Dymrna Curley (E-mail); Marie Dunne (E-mail); Jill Herron (E-mail)
Subject: FW: Statement

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Baxter, Clare
> Sent: 01 November 2004 18:26
> To: 'tbirney' [REDACTED]
> Subject: Statement
>
> Trevor, here's the release.
>
> <<Minister announces inquiry.doc>>
>
> Clare Baxter
> Senior Information Officer
> Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety
> Tel: [REDACTED]
> Fax: [REDACTED]
> Mobile: [REDACTED]

LC - SLT

067B-113-300

News Release



Department of
**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**
www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

1 November 2004

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.

Media queries to DHSSPS Press Office on [REDACTED] or mobile [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Castle Buildings, Stormont Estate, Belfast BT4 3SJ

Tel: [REDACTED] Fax: [REDACTED] E-Mail: press.office [REDACTED]

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0676 - 113 - 301



MEDIA STATEMENT

The Minister for Health Social Services and Public Safety has commissioned an Inquiry into issues raised by a recent UTV Insight programme.

In welcoming the Minister's announcement, Sperrin Lakeland Trust will fully co-operate with and contribute to this Inquiry which will be conducted by Mr John O'Hara QC.

The Trust concurs with the Minister's recognition of the tragic circumstances and sensitivities which this Inquiry will address and acknowledges the importance of maintaining public confidence in the health service.

As this Inquiry is not specific to Sperrin Lakeland Trust, and in pursuance of our pending co-operation and contribution, we would deem it inappropriate to respond further to associated media interest at this time.

... ENDS

Further enquiries should be directed to:

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PR627 / 2 November 2004