

Subject: GMC formal complaint

Mr. & Mrs. Ferguson

F.A.O General Medical Council

6th November 2004

To : Fitness to Practise Directorate, 178 Great Portland Street, London W1W 5JE

Re: Formal Complaint about the professional conduct of :-

- (1) ✓ Dr. Henrietta Campbell, Chief Medical Officer for Northern Ireland
- (2) ✓ Dr. Murray Quinn, Consultant Paediatrician, Altnagelvin Hospital, Derry
- (3) ✓ Dr. Donncha Hanrahan, Consultant Paediatric Neurologist, BHSC, Royal Group
- (4) ✓ Dr. John Jenkins, Consultant Paediatrician, Antrim Area Hospital and
Department of Child Health, Queen's University Belfast.
- (5) Dr. Geoff Nesbitt, Altnagelvin Hospital, Derry
- (6) Dr. Jim Kelly, Erne Hospital, Enniskillen
- (7) The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health.

After much consideration and in view of the recent television programme "When Hospitals Kill" by Ulster Television, we have decided to formally complain to you about the professional conduct of the above named medical practitioners who are registered with the General Medical Council, in connection with the unnatural death of our daughter Raychel in 2001 and the failing of the consequent investigations, apparently concealing the truth.

We understand from reading your publication "Good Medical Practice" that all registered doctors, including the Chief Medical Officer have a clear duty to be honest and trustworthy. We believe that in the light of the UTV programme these requirements are seriously deficient in the above named doctors. We have also learned that Sir Liam Donaldson, the Chief Medical Officer for England and Wales also directed doctors to fulfill their 'duty of candour', as he put it.

The tragedy of our daughter's death has been increased by knowing that it could have been avoided had Lucy Crawford's death been properly and independently investigated in 2000. The

above named doctors failed in their duties required of them by the General Medical Council. In particular we are concerned that the Royal College of Paediatrics failed to make their report available to the Coroner for Greater Belfast, Mr. John Leckey. Indeed several of the above doctors including Dr. Henrietta Campbell, have attempted to cast blame on that Coroner for not knowing the extent of the problem of "Dilutional Hyponatraemia" sooner. We now know that the Coroner acted in the only way he could, on the basis of the false information provided to him by the doctors.

In the name of our beloved daughter, Raychel, we ask you to help bring closure to our personal tragedy. But that is no longer enough. The family and the public are entitled to know through the GMC why these doctors acted in such a manner so as to conceal the truth.

Yours faithfully

M FERGUSON

Ray and Marie Ferguson
(Parents of Raychel)

P.S. Because Dr. Jenkins and Dr. Campbell are members of the GMC Council, will they be treated differently by a GMC investigation into their conduct?