

John O'Hara, at Adelaide st, Belfast on 18<sup>th</sup> of November 2004.

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Having been informed on the 17<sup>th</sup> of November 04 @ 1030 am, of the Health Ministers public announcement and subsequent announcement by John O'Hara, we (Mr & Mrs Slavin Nee Strain) and the Ferguson family have grave concerns that will require answering in full before we can give the Inquiry our support.

Point One,

FIRST WHO IS GOING TO BE A LIASON in ALL OF THIS -

We believe that the set up the Inquiry is not proper for the following reasons; we would like them answered individually.

A, None of the families have been consulted over the set of the Inquiry, WHY?

B, Is the Inquiry public and if not why?

C, How Can this Inquiry be called independent when it has staff from the same Health Board that is to be investigated? I.e. Sharon Lindsay etc?, when there is a real potential that senior members of the board could be implicated? And are all concerned appropriately qualified to hold a position on the panel? And who picked the members of the panel?

D, Why have you & the Health Minister made it as difficult as possible for the families to have a meaningful participation into the Terms of Reference of the Inquiry?

We believe that above point are extremely important as they all related to Article 2 of the Human Rights Act (The Right to Life)

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RF - FAMILY

**Point Two**

Are the families going to be allowed legal representation? And if so who decides who they are?

**Point Three**

It is highly important that aside from the investigation into the cover-ups that there is also a proper investigation into deaths of the children and indeed the circumstances of their deaths, can you confirm that this will be done?

**Point Four**

Will the Police investigation hold up your investigation?

**Point Five**

What are the powers of the Inquiry?

5a , Will the Inquiry have the power to compel individuals to attend such as doctors, nurses and expert witnesses?

5b , Can the families supply name that we think should be interviewed / investigated? And will they be acted on?

5c , If we are to be allowed legal representation, will they be given the opportunity to cross-examine any witnesses or person/s under investigation?

5d , At the conclusion of the Inquiry what actions can be taken at the recommendations of the Inquiry? Indeed can individuals be held accountable?

e , Who will the Inquiry submit its final report to?

**Point Six**

Since the Inquiry is potentially into some senior members of the Health Board and the GMC (Henrietta Campbell & John Jenkins) in respect of cover-ups does the Inquiry not feel that it would be diligent and appropriate for the said individuals to stand down from their appointments to allow for a proper investigation? And if so can the Inquiry recommend such actions to be taken?

**Point Seven**

Has the Inquiry got any time or budgetary restrictions?

Question, Where will the Inquiry be held and have the families got a point of contact?

**Point**

We are very concerned that because of Adam Strains illness that his case will be looked at differently than the other children with less importance put on it. Henrietta Campbell will not even mention Adams name because she seems to believe that Adam was at risk and therefore that mistakes were inevitable.

Can you confirm that ALL the cases will be scrutinised equally?