

DR DONNCHA HANRAHAN DOORSTEP
MONDAY OCTOBER 11 2004

TB: Dr Hanrahan, my name is Trevor Birney. I'm from UTV.

DH: Hello. Hi.

TB: I'd just like to ask you a couple of questions about the Lucy Crawford death. Dr Hanrahan, first of all, can I ask you why you didn't tell the coroner?

DH: I have nothing to say to you, as I said to you on the phone already, didn't I?

TB: Yes. But I want to ask you a question about why you didn't tell the coroner about the presence of hyponatraemia.

DH: Could I say I don't like being doorstepped like this?

TB: Well, I'd like to ask you a question about hyponatraemia ...

DH: Excuse me (opening car door)

TB: ... why you didn't tell the coroner about hyponatraemia, Dr Hanrahan. Why you didn't put it in your statement.

DH: Can I say ... I said all I wanted to say at the inquest. I've spoken to you on the phone already so I have nothing further to tell you.

TB: Why did you not tell the coroner, Dr Hanrahan, about the presence of hyponatraemia? Why did you not say anything in your statement, your affidavit? It was only until you got to court, when you got to court that you actually mentioned it. You realize there is a GMC investigation into this now?

DH: I've nothing further to say. I'm sorry about that.

TB: Were you covering up for Dr O'Donohoe?

DH: No, no, no.

TB: Were you covering up?

DH: No, of course not.

TB: Well, why did you not mention the presence of hyponatraemia when you spoke to the Coroner?

DH: I've nothing further to say to you. Can I leave it at that? Thank-you very much.

TB: Can you not explain to me why? Are you not interested in answering these questions?

DH: Not to you. And I don't like being confronted like this all of a sudden. I've nothing further to say to you.

TB: ... why you didn't tell the coroner about the presence of hyponatraemia when Lucy died ...

DH: I've nothing further to say to you.

TB: ... given that you and your colleagues were aware of the presence of hyponatraemia ...

DH: I've nothing further to say to you.

TB: ... and you realize the significance of that, given the GMC investigation.

DH: I've ...

TB: If you'd said that then ...

DH: I've said this already to you on the phone, haven't I? That I wasn't going to comment further to you at this juncture.

TB: Well, we think there are issues of public interest here, Dr Hanrahan. Obviously you understand that if coroners are not being told or being misled ...

DH: Yeah

TB: ... of information of what caused children's deaths, there are parents in Enniskillen who are still worried about exactly what is the truth behind this.

DH: I appreciate that completely but ...

TB: So why did you mislead the Coroner?

DH: I didn't mislead the Coroner and I can't say anything at the moment to you. OK?

TB: Well, why can't you answer that question?

DH: I, at th, I just don't feel that it's appropriate to answer you that at the moment.

TB: Why? Why not?

DH: OK. Because I've not, I'm not going to answer the question at the moment.

TB: Well, given that you and your colleagues, Dr Caroline Stewart, and others were aware of the presence of hyponatraemia ...

DH: Mm, hm ...

TB: ... you were aware of that at the time of Lucy's death. ...

DH: Yeah ...

TB: ... why did you not tell that to the coroner when you spoke to him.

DH: Em, I would need to check up my facts on this and I have nothing further to offer you at the moment, OK?

TB: So you don't know whether you did or didn't? Well, the Coroner said you didn't mention it.

DH: I didn't? Right.

TB: You said gastroenteritis.

DH: OK, yeah. I just, I just don't want to be doorstepped like this. I am suddenly confronted by you with this. It's not fair to me at the moment. OK? And I'm not going to say anything further at the moment.

TB: You can't explain yourself at all?

DH: Not at this juncture, no, I can't. I'm not going to comment any further.

TB: We've given you several months. We've asked these questions for several months and you've been aware of them.

DH: And I've decided that I'm not going to be subjected to this kind of questioning at the moment. I'm not. I'm not happy with it at all and I've nothing further to add.

TB: So you've no explanation at all for the Crawford family about ...

DH: I've nothing further ...

TB: ... about why ...

DH: ... to add to you and if the Crawford family wish to speak to me about it, I've absolutely no problem at all about that at all.

TB: But you've no explanation at all?

DH: I've no explanation that I'm going to provide at the moment, no.

TB: Do you appreciate that Lucy did die of dilutional hyponatraemia? That that was the cause of her death?

DH: Look, I don't want to get into any of the details. I can't discuss this case with you at the moment.

TB: Why not?

DH: OK. Because I don't feel it's appropriate, OK?

TB: Well, we've given you ample opportunity, Dr Hanrahan.

DH: But I don't ...

TB: ... refused all attempts to explain to us as to actually why you didn't mention to the coroner.

DH: Yeah. Yeah. There's no obligation upon me to discuss with you at the moment, OK? Thank-you very much. OK?

TB: You're not prepared to give any explanation?

DH: Not at this juncture. No. No.

TB: Are you ever going to explain it?

DH: I don't know. I can't say. I'd need to talk to my advisers about this.

TB: Do you appreciate that the Crawfords have a right to know?

DH: If the Crawfords wish to speak to me I would have absolutely no problem with this. I have said this with every single time I met them. If they wish to speak to me under any circumstances, I would speak to them. There is absolutely no problem with that at all.

TB: But even when they came up to you and you spoke to them in June, you didn't explain to them then. You didn't take that opportunity to explain to them that the child had died of dilutional hyponatraemia.

DH: Erm, this ...

TB: You directed them back to Dr O'Donohoe.

DH: I'm not going to talk about the detail of the case with you. I can't do that.

TB: You have had several opportunities to explain to the Crawfords and you've failed. I mean, you could have explained when you met them, or interviewed them, as you said in your affidavit. You didn't take that opportunity.

DH: Now, listen, I'm feeling very uncomfortable at the moment being interviewed like this. You can appreciate that. I'm sure you can't ...

TB: Well, we've given you ample opportunity Dr O'Hanrahan, to give us an explanation.

DH: So I need to ...

TB: why didn't you say this?

DH: I need to talk to my ?? (inaudible), OK? So if you'll excuse me. Thank-you very much. (Gets into car and drives away)