

Fisher, Ruth

From: Browne, Andrew
Sent: 22 November 2004 12:55
To: Fisher, Ruth
Subject: FW: Briefing Re Issues Programme

To note

-----Original Message-----

From: Browne, Andrew
Sent: 22 November 2004 12:42
To: Sullivan, Dean
Cc: Gowdy, Clive; Hamilton, Andrew; Campbell, Dr Henrietta; Gardner, Jeremy; Maguire, Philip; Carnew, Sholto
Subject: RE: Briefing Re Issues Programme

Dean
I spoke this morning to Mike Evans in the DH Inquiry Unit. The Royal Liverpool Children's Inquiry (Alder Hey) and other recent health service inquiries have been conducted under Section 2 of the Health Service Act 1977.

On the point about the independence of the secretariat he said the issue has been raised within the last two weeks by the Public Administration Select Committee, which is currently looking into "Government by Inquiry". Sir Liam Donaldson and others were presenting evidence on Thursday 11 November and the Departmental line was that:

- There is no central unit from which to staff inquiries and the use of departmental staff allows inquiries to hit the ground running.
- Civil Servants are impartial and are only there to provide support. The Chair, Members and advisers are the ones who provide independence.
- Previous inquiries have been supported by Civil Servants and still been very critical of Government.

On the point about the TOR, there is an increasing move towards involving interested parties, including relatives, but that is not mandatory and Sir Liam said the important thing was to agree them with the chair, therefore the appointment of the chair usually precedes the announcement of the TOR.

Ambrose thought that Minister should be aware of what John O'Hara had said in his interviews last Thursday when speaking to UTV. I understand that Jeremy Gardner is providing the necessary transcripts.
Andrew

-----Original Message-----

From: Sullivan, Dean
Sent: 22 November 2004 09:17
To: Browne, Andrew
Subject: FW: Briefing Re Issues Programme

Andre - can we discuss please?

Dean

-----Original Message-----

From: Maguire, Philip
Sent: 20 November 2004 02:19
To: 'teresa.hewitt@';
Cc: 'teresa.hewitt@'; Gowdy, Clive; Hamilton, Andrew; Sullivan, Dean; Campbell, Dr Henrietta; Gardner, Jeremy; Edgar, Leona; Moore, Martin; 'colm.shannon@'; Simpson, Paul
Subject: Briefing Re Issues Programme

<< File: Doc1.doc >> Teresa

as you are aware, UTV Issue programme came in with a completely fresh bid on Friday evening, The bid is not about the content of the inquiry but about the credibility of the inquiry.

There are very strong allegations that the inquiry is not credible, not independent and could lead to a whitewash. In order to address these fears the Minister has agreed to participate. This will not be done in an in depth free for all 15 minute piece. Rather, the format will be as follows:

Introduction-1/2 mins

John O'Hara Interview-5/6 mins

Interview in studio with family/families-UTV state this will be the Strain family but will be UTV's call-5 mins

Minister from studio in London-5/6 mins

UTV then intend to go into a break. The second part of the show will deal with a political collection at the Linenhall Library. The Minister is aware of this and will not be asked on it. If UTV drop this second half and devote the whole programme to Inquiry then the deal is off.

UTV also agreed not to ask any questions on any matter which is subject to the actual inquiry or on people subject to the inquiry.

UTV can only ask questions re actions since the inquiry was set up i.e. the reason, methodology of doing so, and its independence.

UTV can only ask questions solely to the Minister. Families cannot ask direct questions or come back in after the Minister has spoken.

UTV cannot cut/edit Minister's comments

There is some specific factual information which I will chase up and it is noted in the attached.

The key here will be to use up the space with key messages

1. Determined to get to the truth
2. Families are valued/included in the process
3. Inquiry is strong/robust/independent-not flawed/not the platform for a whitewash/not the Dept investigating itself
4. Have every confidence in John O'Hara independently getting to the truth.

The Minister will be encouraged to fill the space by constantly repeating these key messages.

Lines attached have been agreed with Colm Shannon. I would appreciate any comments from those on cc list on my mobile on Monday 07788 108657. I will be in Millbank on Monday. The programme outlined above is scheduled for 4pm as live on Monday and will then go out at 11pm.

Happy to discuss and don't be alarmed by me sorting this out late-want to keep tomorrow free as much as possible for managing Corrymeela 2nds hopefully to victory.

Philip