

Young, Christine

---


**From:** Moore, Martin  
**Sent:** 18 November 2004 11:00  
**To:** Gowdy, Clive; Campbell, Dr Henrietta; Maguire, Philip; McCarthy, Miriam; Baxter, Clare; Edgar, Leona; Hamilton, Andrew; Hill, Don  
**Subject:** New Crawford story - Impartial Reporter - 18.11.04

## Lucy inquiry terms of reference announced today

The man conducting the independent inquiry into the deaths of three children in Northern Ireland hospitals has contacted the families to discuss the terms of reference. The family of Letterbreen girl Lucy Crawford, as well as Raychel Ferguson's parents from Derry, and the mother of Adam Strain, who died in Belfast have been consulted this week.

The families have been told that Mr John O'Hara, QC, will announce the terms of reference today (Thursday), and it is understood that the inquiry will have a very wide brief.

The announcement will answer the vital question of whether the inquiry will be a full public one.


A  CURV Insight investigation made a several serious allegations about the deaths of the three children, whom the programme said died needlessly.

Following the programme, Health Minister, Angela Smith announced the inquiry on Monday, November 1.

However, in the intervening 18 days, few details have emerged about the inquiry. At least one of the families insisted that it should be public, and politicians have been calling for answers.

DUP Assembly member, Arlene Foster has asked what powers the inquiry would have and if it would be held in public. She also insisted that it was "imperative that the inquiry goes further than simply examining the hospital care the children received and focuses on how local Trusts and the Department reacted". Mrs Foster also called for the medical expertise being input into the process to come from outside Northern Ireland.

The watchdog body, the Western Health and Social Services Council has also called for the inquiry to be "public, open and transparent."

 Mr. O'Hara's office has been in touch with the three families to ascertain their views on these, and indeed, all other relevant subjects. The families have been arranging face-to-face meetings with Mr. O'Hara.

The Impartial Reporter understands that the inquiry will be public and will have a very wide brief, including focusing on the treatment of the children, how all the authorities responded and how those organisations communicated with the families.

It is also understood that the police investigation into the deaths is also continuing