

Young, Christine

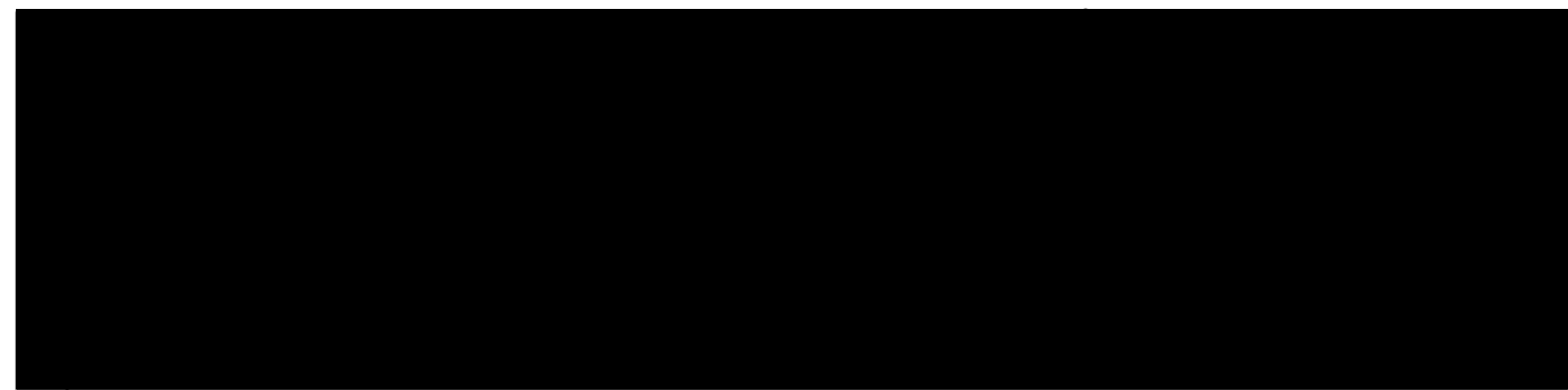
From: Baxter, Clare
Sent: 15 November 2004 18:20
To: Gowdy, Clive; Carson, Ian; Hamilton, Andrew
Cc: Maguire, Philip
Subject: Inquiry press release

A draft of a press release for the announcement about the Terms of Reference for the Hyponatraemia inquiry.



Hyponatraemia
inquiry pr.doc

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INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO HYPONATRAEMIA-RELATED DEATHS STARTS

The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) today announced the formal start of the Independent Inquiry into Hyponatraemia-related deaths.

The Inquiry, which will be chaired by John O'Hara QC, will examine the events surrounding and following the deaths of three children, Adam Strain, Lucy Crawford and Raychel Ferguson.

Minister with responsibility for Health, Social Services and Public Safety, Angela Smith, said: "The Terms of Reference for the Inquiry will examine the care and treatment of Lucy Crawford, Raychel Ferguson and Adam Strain, and communications between the three families and the relevant authorities.

"This inquiry will be fully independent and conducted under the full range of powers available under Health and Personal Social Services legislation. The findings and recommendations of the inquiry will be published. It is hoped that the inquiry will be completed by June 2005 and that a report will be submitted to me by that date."

The Terms of Reference for the review are as follows:

- i. The care and treatment of Lucy Crawford, Raychel Ferguson and Adam Strain, especially in relation to the management of fluid balance and the choice and administration of intravenous fluids in each case.
- ii. The actions of the statutory authorities, other organisations and responsible individuals concerned in the procedures, investigations and events which followed the deaths of Adam Strain, Lucy Crawford and Raychel Ferguson.
- iii. The communications with, and explanations given to, the respective families by the relevant authorities.

In addition, Mr O'Hara will:

- a. Report by 1 June 2005 or such other date as may be agreed with the Department, on the areas specifically identified above and, at his discretion, examine and report on any other relevant matters which arise in connection with the Inquiry.
- b. Make such recommendations to the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety as he considers necessary and appropriate.

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. The inquiry will be conducted under the Health and Personal Social Services Order (Northern Ireland) 1972. This order has the power to compel papers to be supplied and witnesses to give evidence in matters relating to the inquiry.

Media queries to DHSSPS Press Office on 