

POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND

Police Identification Mark RH112

**SUMMARY OF TAPE RECORDED INTERVIEW**

TAPE REF NO:

DHV 81/05

Master Tape  
Seal Number(s):

T115861A

PERSON INTERVIEWED:

HUGH SPROULE MILLS

ADDRESS:

STRATHDENE HOUSE,  
TYRONE/FERMANAGH HOSPITAL

DOB:

[REDACTED]

PLACE OF INTERVIEW:

ANTRIM PSNI

DATE OF INTERVIEW:

07/04/2005

TIME COMMENCED: 1319 HOURS

TIME TERMINATED: 1345 HOURS

INTERVIEWING OFFICERS:

OTHER PERSON(S) PRESENT:

- 1 D/SERGEANT CROSS, CARE UNIT,  
ENNISKILLEN
- 2 D/CONSTABLE HALL, CARE UNIT,  
ENNISKILLEN
- 3

- 1 [REDACTED] SOLICITOR,  
[REDACTED]
- 2
- 3

MADE BY:

D/CONSTABLE HALL

Tape Number and  
Tape Times:

Interview commenced and introductions made.

D/Sgt Cross: It's the same place, same four people present and I would just remind you Mr Mills you are still under caution and get you to confirm that we asked no questions in relation to these matters between tapes?

Mr Mills: Ok.

D/Sgt Cross: And could I also, I don't think I mentioned it at the start of the last tape, but we did take a comfort break and had a coffee and again between those tapes there were no questions asked relevant to these issues?

Mr Mills: Agreed.

D/Sgt Cross: ...In this review it does say I think on page 125...that Doctor O'Donohoe was proactive in supporting the Crawfords...

Mr Mills: Yeah Doctor O'Donohoe was proactive in offering support to the family.

D/Sgt Cross: Do you recall if you were told any basis for making that comment?

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Mr Mills: I don't know, I don't recall anything specific. I know he met with the family and I'm not sure whether they requested the meeting or he set up the meeting.

D/Sgt Cross: ... Their evidence would be that they requested the meeting and that Doctor O'Donohoe took no steps... to initiate any contact.

Mr Mills: ... I'm not sure whether proactive means offering support at the time of the meeting, in sense of would provide you with further information or whether it is about setting up the meeting.

D/Sgt Cross: Yes. Did I copy to you Mr Mills the letter to Mr Leckey from Doctor O'Hara, Denis O'Hara, the Pathologist?

Mr Mills: You did yes.

D/Sgt Cross: Right in the second paragraph it says this was a difficult case at the time in which it was clear there was a potential background of litigation. ... Do you recall any liaison between you or your colleagues and Pathology about these specific difficulties that are evident to O'Hara?

Mr Mills: I certainly had no liaison and we certainly would acknowledge that it was a difficult case... As to whether there was potential background of litigation that wouldn't necessarily influence us in relation to a case. We would treat all cases the same and it is only at such times as we would get a solicitor's letter that we would engage our own solicitors. So it wouldn't have made any difference whether the case was going to litigation or not going to litigation, we would treat them the same.

D/Sgt Cross: Could I ask then when Doctor Asghar hand delivered his letter to you - on the 5<sup>th</sup> of June, was it?

Mr Mills: Yeah.

D/Sgt Cross: ... The people who were reviewing Lucy, were they apprised of Doctor Asghar's views?

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Mr Mills: Both Doctor Kelly and Mr Fee were apprised of, my understanding was that Doctor Asghar actually met with them on the same day. In other words he hand delivered the letter not only to me but also to Mr Fee and to Doctor Kelly...

D/Sgt Cross: ...On the 30<sup>th</sup> of March 01, I believe in a letter, you'd commented that it was the position that Lucy's difficulties didn't suggest poor care. What was the reason that that was told to the family?

Mr Mills: ...Based on the information that we had at the time... largely based on Murray Quinn's report, that was the view that we had at that time and indeed subsequent to that we had the report from Moira Stewart, which would have again sort of confirmed the findings that Murray Quinn would have reached that we had no reason to believe that we had done any harm to Lucy at that time.

D/Sgt Cross: Would it be your opinion now that there was poor care offered the child on the night in question?

Mr Mills: I accept the Coroner's findings at the time of the Inquest...

D/Sgt Cross: ... You have highlighted that you did consider possible suspension... What information had you in your mind that made you think this is possibly a route we need to go?

Mr Mills: Well there was a question mark about the care that Lucy had received and obviously there was a difference of opinion between the nurses and the doctors and I suppose in essence I wanted to know was it appropriate that Doctor O'Donohoe should continue to see and treat patients? ...Is he going to do any harm to himself or is he going to do any harm to anybody else?

D/Sgt Cross: And since that was in your mind did you find that Doctor Quinn's report was sufficient or satisfactory in allaying those fears?

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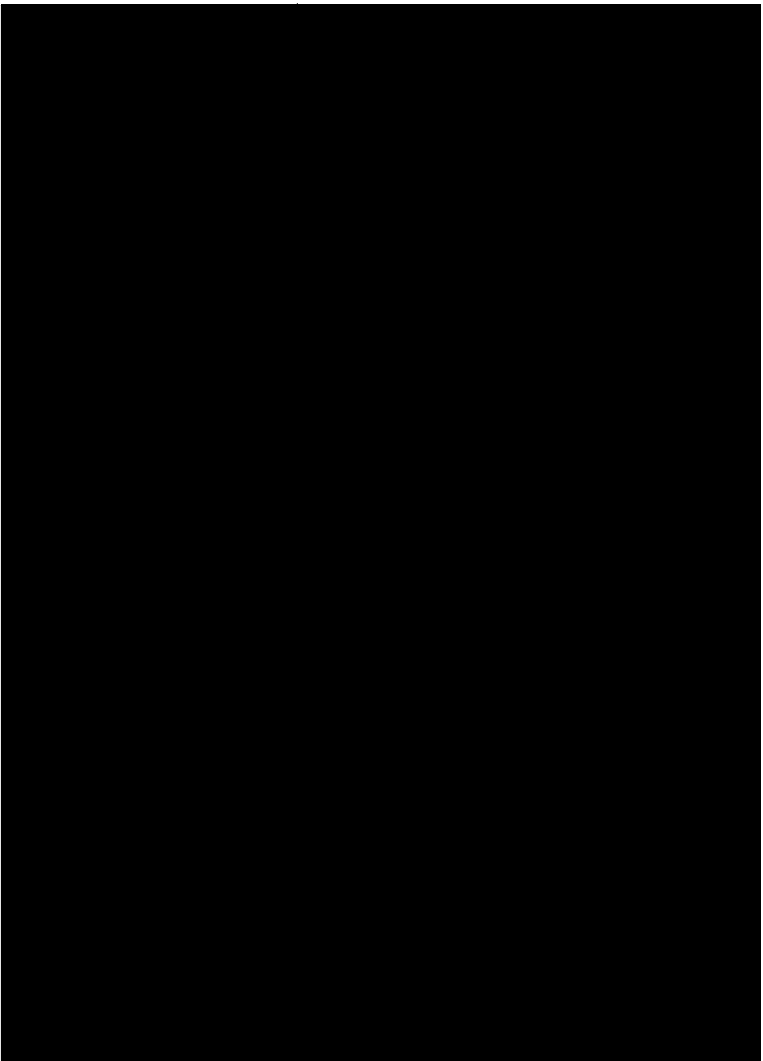
Yes. Doctor Quinn's report and indeed the information and evidence that Doctor Kelly was collating from other sources, which would have included staff who worked in the department and consultants who were working in the Trust who would have worked and been involved referring patients to Doctor O'Donohoe. It wasn't just the information in the report.

D/Sgt Cross:

Halahakoon etc.

Mr Mills:

She would work in the department as a colleague and as I said earlier Doctor [REDACTED] [REDACTED] again they weren't identifying any problems. [REDACTED]



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D/Sgt Cross:

... This is a meeting with Doctor Kelly, the 4<sup>th</sup> of May 2000... the only issue discussed of relevance to me was point 4 - an untoward death and it says Doctor O'Donohoe, JK is worried about, that would be Doctor Kelly, criminal investigation, could be a possibility of an issue by the Coroner, query a date with the family, reports awaited. There is a meeting and those who are to attend. Could I ask you what was the discussion about the criminal investigation as a possibility?

Mr Mills:

This would be a monthly meeting... that I would have had with Doctor Kelly... I suppose in essence that it does identify the fact that we were expecting an Inquest... As regards criminal investigation could be a possibility if initiated by the Coroner, I wasn't aware of why Doctor Kelly would have had that opinion... he basically said it was in relation to another case he was handling in the Trust at the time where the notes of the surgeon had been seen by a Coroner and basically the surgeon was advising him that there was a potential in terms of a criminal investigation...

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D/Sgt Cross: If the Medical Director is discussing with the Chief Executive that what transpired on the ward that night may lead to a criminal investigation, did that not suggest to both of you and to anybody who may have become aware of this conversation that it was essential that there was an Inquest, because I mean that's a classic case where there must be an Inquest, if there's a potential that the police are involved, then it's hard to conceive of how a Coroner shouldn't be. And did that not highlight to you and to Doctor Kelly we need to make sure there is an Inquest here, ahead of the police?

Mr Mills: We assumed there would, I mean we had no reason to believe that there wasn't going to be an Inquest, we didn't feel that we needed to take any action because we understood that there was going to be an Inquest.

D/Sgt Cross: And in I think it was the 25<sup>th</sup> of June of the following year, you are informed then that...there isn't going to be an Inquest, did you not think...there is a danger the police being involved in here, we'll initiate an Inquest.

Mr Mills: 25<sup>th</sup> of June the following year we were asking when the Inquest was happening, the 12<sup>th</sup> of October the following year we were advised there was going to be no Inquest. Now I wasn't advised, I don't recall anybody ever telling me that there wasn't going to be an Inquest. It was the scrutiny committee who was advised and in essence that would include Doctor Kelly and Ms O'Rawe. Now we were already involved in litigation, we were sitting with solicitors talking about cases, so if, if we were being advised in October 2001 that there

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Mr Mills:            wasn't going to be an Inquest and there was concerns about legal aspects or whatever you would have thought we would have taken the advice, nobody was flagging anything up to the Scrutiny Committee that we should be insisting that there should be an Inquest.

At 1342 hours PACE 21 was served and the interview ended