

GB/ZL

7 October 2004

The Producer
Insight programme
Ulster Television
Havelock House
Ormeau Road
BELFAST
BT7 1EB

Dear Sirs

***OUR CLIENT – ROYAL GROUP OF HOSPITALS
RE – TREVOR BIRNEY EDITOR, CURRENT AFFAIRS,
ULSTER TELEVISION – INSIGHT PROGRAMME***

I write on the instructions of my Client the Royal Group of Hospitals that includes the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children. I enclose herewith a copy of an e-mail, which was sent from Trevor Birney to an employee within the Royal Group of Hospitals. On the basis of the information, which is contained within the e-mail, I refer particularly to the following statement:

“I have to point out that in the forthcoming programme we will be relying on documentary evidence, including statements made under oath, which clearly proves that the Royal did mislead the Coroner”.

My Client trenchantly denies the suggestion that the Coroner was misled by “the Royal and its witnesses”.

I require an unqualified retraction of this allegation and an undertaking that you will not publish the allegation in the forthcoming television programme or elsewhere. I should indicate to you that if you do so, the Trust reserves its right to take legal action against you and/or your Servant or Agent. In addition, the Trust employees who gave evidence may also seek any remedy or redress which may be available to them.

In the interim, I should indicate to you that given the unreasonable behaviour evidenced by Mr Birney, it is with the utmost regret that the Trust cannot participate in the programme or co-operate with Mr Birney and UTV.

My Client’s record of participation with the media in relation to investigative enquiries carried out by journalists is one of co-operation and openness.

Unfortunately, Mr Birney's unreasonable behaviour has left the Trust with no alternative but to withdraw any co-operation until such times as this issue has been resolved.

Yours faithfully

George D H Brangam


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