

3

From: Donna Scott  
Sent: 06 September 2004 09:54  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: FW:

Importance: High  
Sensitivity: Confidential

please print and put on all lucy crawford related files

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

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
Sent: 03 September 2004 09:23  
To: Donna Scott  
Subject:  
Importance: High  
Sensitivity: Confidential

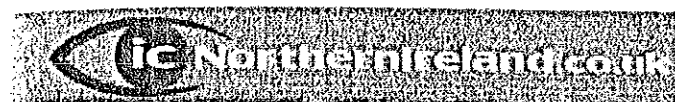
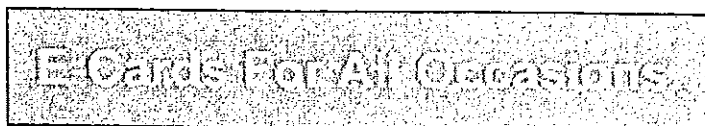
This message is bound by the disclaimer below.

Donna

I wish to advise you that Dr O'Donohoe has been referred to the Professional Conduct Committee for initial consideration.

[REDACTED]  
for Bridget O'Rawe

DISCLAIMER - The information contained within this email is confidential. It may also be legally privileged. It is intended only for the stated addressee(s) and access to it by any other person is unauthorised. If you are not an addressee, you must not disclose, copy or circulate or in any other way use or rely on the information contained in this email. Such unauthorised use may be unlawful. If you have received this email in error, please inform us immediately by telephone on [REDACTED] or e-mail us at [REDACTED] and delete it and all copies from your system.



icNorthernIreland your ser

- Home page
- Election '03
- News
  - Northern Ireland
- News
  - Election 2003
  - UK & World News
  - The Twelfth
  - What You Think
  - Hot Topic
- Sport
- Entertainment
- Business
- Features
- Points Of View
- Ex-Pats
- On The Web
- icJobs
- icMotors
- icTravel
- icWeather
- icGreetings
- Business Finder
- About Us
- Photo Sales
- Library Services
- Advertise In Print
- Advertise Online
- Link To Us
- Contact Us

Northern Ireland News

## Doctor Silent On Why Toddler Died

Feb 20 2004

By Sandra Murphy Health Correspondent

AFTER waiting four years for a hospital to explain why their little girl died, Lucy Crawford's parents were astonished and angry when a doctor who treated their child refused to answer any questions at her inquest yesterday.

The toddler from Letterbreen in Fermanagh died after she was transferred from the Erne Hospital to the children's hospital in Belfast on April 14, 2000.

The cause of death was given as cerebral oedema - swelling of the brain - due to errors made in the fluid replacement therapy, compounded by poor-quality medical record-keeping and confusion by the nursing staff at the Erne Hospital as to the fluid regime prescribed.

On the final day of the Belfast inquest on the 17-month-old, Jarlath O'Donaghue, consultant paediatrician at the Erne Hospital, declined to take the stand, saying that he had to protect his professional reputation.

In an unusual step, he asked the Coroner for Greater Belfast, John Leckey, to adjourn the case for the day while he sought independent legal advice separate from the Sperrin Lakeland Trust.

Dismissing Dr O'Donaghue's request as "unreasonable" and "not in the interest of justice", Mr Leckey said that he would refer the case papers to the General Medical Council.

"I hope that this will try to ensure that no other child will die in the same tragic circumstances as Lucy," he said.

Mae and Neville Crawford expressed their disappointment that the lengthy ordeal could not be brought to an end with the help of all those responsible.

"We are astonished that Dr O'Donaghue, who was in charge of Lucy's care, refused to come forward, give evidence and answer questions at the inquest," they said.

After being put through the trauma of hearing every action that happened to Lucy in the final hours of her short life, Mr and Mrs Crawford were angry that they had not received an acknowledgement from the trust that it was

More He

270 Jobs  
Factory

Grieving  
Dead

We're St

No Press  
Cleaner

Pensione  
After Bri



responsible for her death.

"Our pain at the loss of our daughter is compounded by knowledge that her death was unnecessary and could have been so easily avoided," they said.

Earlier, the coroner heard from three expert witnesses, who agreed that the child's care at the Fermanagh hospital was "substandard".

Consultant paediatrician John Jenkins said yesterday that a breakdown in communication between medical and nursing staff was responsible for causing the fundamental errors.

He said there was inadequate documentation and record-keeping on how much and what type of fluid she was given for dehydration.

On the previous day, an anaesthetist at the hospital, Dr Tom Auterson, said that the lack of adequate equipment and a three-hour wait for an ambulance was "not an acceptable situation".

He agreed with three medical experts whose reports concluded that the fluids used in Lucy's treatment were incorrect and used at the wrong rate of infusion.

Last night, Sperrin Lakeland HSC Trust issued a statement saying: "As an organisation dedicated to caring for people, we regret our part in this tragedy.

"Practice today at the Erne Hospital is different from the time of Lucy's death."

The statement added that the trust will study the coroner's conclusions and "will ensure that the organisation and others learn the lessons of this tragic case".

s.murphy

[▲ Top](#) | [⬅ Back](#) | [E-mail to a friend](#) | [Printable version](#)



---

**Copyright and Trade Mark Notice**

© owned by or licensed to Trinity Mirror Plc 2004  
icNorthernIreland™ is a trade mark of Trinity Mirror Plc.  
Please read our Terms and Conditions and Privacy Statement before using  
this site.