

FROM: Henrietta Campbell (Dr)

DATE: 21 June 2005

TO: PS/Shawn Woodward

**MINISTERIAL MEETING WITH MR AND MRS CRAWFORD ON
19TH JUNE**

Issue: 1. You wish to send a letter to Mr and Mrs Crawford
thanking them for meeting with you.

2. Mr and Mrs Crawford had asked whether or not I
had replied to a letter from the Coroner following
the Inquest into their daughter Lucy's death.

Timing: You will wish to write to Mr and Mrs Crawford
promptly.

Media Interest: The O'Hara Inquiry into the deaths of 3 children,
including Lucy, has attracted considerable media
interest.

FOI Implications: This note is fully disclosable.

Recommendations: That you agree the attached letter to Mr and
Mrs Crawford with any amendments which add your
own personal message of continued support.

Background

1. The submission of 24th May (Tab 1) provided briefing for your meeting with Mr and Mrs Crawford at Hillsborough Castle on 19th June. At that meeting they informed you that a letter had been sent to me by John Leckey following the Inquest into Lucy's death. They asked if I have responded to Mr Leckey's letter.
2. I received 3 letters from John Leckey around the time of the conclusion of the Inquest. Andrew Browne has telephoned the Crawford family and it appears that the letter to which they refer is one dated 23rd February 2004 (Tab 2).
3. On receipt of this letter I had a lengthy discussion with Mr Leckey by telephone and agreed with him the action I should take, including the commissioning of an independent external review of the hyponatraemia guidelines which had been published in 2002. We also agreed that I should meet with Dr Ed Sumner, the expert medical witness engaged by Mr Leckey for the Inquest, when he was next in Belfast. I met with Dr Sumner on 25th May.
4. I wrote to Mr Leckey on 28th June 2004 (Tab 3) outlining the initiatives which were being taken forward to address the concerns raised following Lucy's Inquest. This letter was also copied to Ed Sumner as he had raised similar issues.
5. In addition I met with Mr Leckey on 19th November and updated him on the continuing work which is being undertaken on hyponatraemia. We also discussed wider issues relating to death certification and the investigation of deaths. This work is being taken forward, in conjunction with the Northern Ireland Court Service, through an inter-departmental working group which is considering the Home Office proposals.

Recommendation

6. I recommend that you write to Mr and Mrs Crawford to thank them for meeting with you at Hillsborough Castle and responding to their query about my response to the Coroner's letter. You will of course wish to amend the sentiments in the draft letter to re-echo your own words of comfort to Mr and Mrs Crawford when you met.

Henrietta Campbell (Dr)

**Copied to: Secretary
Dr Carson
Dr Mitchell
Andrew Browne**

DRAFT FOR MINISTER'S SIGNATURE

Dear

I am writing to let you know once again how pleased I was to meet with you at Hillsborough Castle on Sunday 19th June. As a parent myself, I recognise fully how painful it must be to revisit the tragic events of little Lucy's death but I am pleased that you felt you could do so with me.

When we met you raised with me a query regarding a letter from the Coroner, John Leckey, written to Dr Campbell, Chief Medical Officer, following the Inquest into Lucy's death. Dr Campbell has informed me that she spoke to Mr Leckey by telephone on receiving the letter, telling him of her proposals for an independent external review of the hyponatraemia guidelines. She then wrote to Mr Leckey on 28th June 2004 further outlining some of the initiatives which were being taken forward such as raising professional awareness and improving the management of patient records. This letter was also copied to Ed Summer as he had raised similar issues with Dr Campbell.

On 19th November Dr Campbell met with Mr Leckey and updated him on the continuing work being undertaken on hyponatraemia.

Thank you again to you and your family for spending time with me on Sunday last.

My thoughts and my prayers will remain with you and your family through these very difficult times.

Shaun Woodward