

Family Law Reform

57 Cornwall Grove Bletchley Milton Keynes MK3 7HX Tel 01908 630856

Mismanagement: Social and Family Policy

**Mr Bruce Clark, DfES
2000-2005**

26 April 2005

Family Law Reform

57 Cornwall Grove Bletchley Milton Keynes MK3 7HX Tel 01908 630856

Sir David Normington
The Permanent Secretary (DfES)
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London SW1P 3BT

26 April 2005

Dear Sir David,

**Mr Bruce Clark: Major Distortions of Family Policy
Mr Clark's Integrity?**

Please find attached two complaints raised against Mr Bruce Clark in respect of two areas of family policy. The mismanagement of these areas has common features:

- (i) incompetence
- (ii) underhand and/or improper dealings
- (iii) adverse consequences
- (iv) distortions of policy

Item (ii) is of particular concern.

The two mismanaged policy areas are on the verge of conflation. The areas of untoward operation now extend over the Departments of Health, Education and Skills, and Constitutional Affairs; the latter is partially disabled with regard to Section 8 of the Act. An incidental if recent casualty is a three-ministry Green Paper, *Parental Separation* (Cm 6273).

Public law cases involving children, and private law cases involving children, are now embroiled in a spectrum of mismanagement entailing widespread social harm. You will be familiar with some of the reported damage through a general reading of the newspapers:

- (i) miscarriages of justice involving Munchausen's by Proxy or "FII"
- (ii) civil disorder in relation to contact cases

Both flow from Mr Clark. His continuance in a position of responsibility is questioned.

Yours sincerely,

David Mortimer
Secretary

cc Rt Hon Ruth Kelly; Rt Hon Margaret Hodge; Lord Filkin; Lord Falconer; Baroness Ashton; Tom Jeffery;
Althea Efunshile

SECTION ONE

Section One: SUMMARIES..... Pages 4-7

1. Mismanagement: Separating Parents

The Covert Discarding of an Agreed and Approved Reform

2. Mismanagement: MSBP

Misconstruing Ordinary Childhood Disorders as Evidence of Abuse

Section Two: SUPPORTING EVIDENCE..... Pages 9-46

- **Separating Parents**
- **MSBP**

Family Law Reform

57 Cornwall Grove Bletchley Milton Keynes MK3 7HX Tel 01908 630856

Sir David Normington
The Permanent Secretary (DfES)
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London SW1P 3BT

26 April 2005

Dear Sir David

Bruce Clark: Major Distortions of Family Policy (Contact)

I write at the suggestion of DfES officials on behalf of the signatories listed in the Exhibits. Consensus (FLR) is concerned that Mr Clark, of the Vulnerable Children Section, has taken national policy into his own hands and misled the public, MPs, Ministers and the judiciary.

Our concern flows from how Mr Clark handled the NATC Early Interventions project.

The EI project was assigned to Mr Clark for implementation around January '04 after it had been approved by the Minister. However, Mr Clarke had already decided to swap the fully-designed EI project for a different entity without telling Ministers. Since then, to conceal what he did, Mr Clark has persistently issued false claims that only a change of name was involved, and that the two projects - which are in reality opposites - embody the same principles. The attached evidence confirms that Ministers and others were misled.

The Design Team assembled by Mr Clark first met on 17th March 2004. Its members were not briefed on the Early Interventions project or even given the EI papers to read. The EI project originators were not consulted. Mr Clark's Design Team started again from scratch. In the words of the Steering Group Chair, Althea Efunshile, on 25 May 2004: "The pilot has no in-built assumption in favour of an already existing model." The upshot is:

- the project built and launched is the reverse of the project submitted
- family policy is in serious mutation
- his substitute ('Family Resolutions') lurches from one blunder to the next
- work on the approved Early Interventions project never began
- the Green Paper, based on the discarded EI project, is empty

Meanwhile, and as forewarned, Fam Res has failed. It is on this basis that we question the competence, expertise and good will of Mr Clark. Perhaps we can meet to discuss the issue?

Yours sincerely

David Mortimer
Secretary

Family Law Reform

57 Cornwall Grove Bletchley Milton Keynes MK3 7HX Tel 01908 630856

EXHIBITS

Deformation of Family Policy

Mr Bruce Clark 2003-2005

Summary: Misinformation

The Exhibits show the DfES taking four contradictory positions:

- (i) EI is being built
- (ii) Fam Res is being built
- (iii) Fam Res is the same as EI
- (iv) Fam Res is different from EI

Explanation

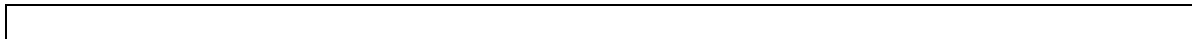
The truth is that Mr Bruce Clark decided to discard the EI project without review or consideration, replace it with an entirely different proposition, and do so without telling Ministers.

However, since the intended project was EI (and not Fam Res) Mr Clark had to maintain - from beginning to end - that the two projects were the same. Otherwise Ministers would have discovered that the project they were getting was not the project they ordered; and that the Green Paper promises were incapable of fulfilment.

The end-result of the chicanery is, understandably, the long-predicted fiasco. On 3 April 2005 the *Sunday Telegraph* reported of Mr Clark's Fam Res substitute: "The scheme, which cost an estimated pounds 1 million to set up, now appears close to collapse".

In discarding EI, Mr Clark discarded some ten years' of prime development work, winding the clock back to inoperable pieties drawn from the early 1990s. In so doing, Mr Clark replaced a fully-functioning legal mechanism with a vague travesty of a couple of its subsidiary and disembodied components.

As Mr Clark still has not familiarised himself with the EI project he destroyed, he still seems to be unaware of what he has done.



EXHIBITS: CONTENTS

CHRONOLOGY: The Substitution

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Family Law , Hansard etc; 02-03 | <i>The EI project should be taken forward</i> |
| 2. Email, DCA/DfES 11.12.03 | <i>The EI project is being taken forward</i> |
| 3. Emails, DCA/DfES Jan'04 | <i>The EI project is not being taken forward</i> |
| 4. Letter, NATC – DfES 12.4.04 | <i>The EI project never started</i> |
| 5. Letter, NATC – DfES 19.4.04 | <i>The EI papers were lost before being read</i> |
| 6. Letter, Minister to CEP , 29.4.04 | <i>The Minister believes EI is being taken forward</i> |
| 7. Project Management , April 04 | <i>The EI project could still be taken forward</i> |
| 8. Letter, DfES 25.5.04 | <i>The EI project is not being taken forward</i> |
| 9. Letter, NATC to Bruce Clark , 17.6.04 | <i>The EI project is not being taken forward</i> |
| 7. Letter, NATC to Lord Filkin 12.10.04 | <i>The EI project is being taken forward?</i> |
| 8. Family Law , November 2004 | <i>The EI project is not being taken forward</i> |
| 9. Email to Bruce Clark | <i>The EI project is being taken forward</i> |
| 10. Minister to the House , 13.12.04 | <i>The EI project is being taken forward</i> |
| 11. DfES, Next Steps , Jan 2005 | <i>The EI project is being taken forward</i> |
| 12. The Guardian , 19.1.05 | <i>The EI project is not being taken forward</i> |
| 13. Ministerial Contradictions | <i>The EI project is-and-is-not being taken forward</i> |
| 14. Standard DfES email 2.3.05 | <i>The EI project is-and-is-not being taken forward</i> |
| 15. Family Resolutions is not being taken forward? | |
| 16. Embroiling the Permanent Secretary (DfES) | |
| 17. A Smoking Gun? | |

Appendices:

Genesis of this Complaint
Signatories' Protocol
Signatories

These Exhibits are attached to the 26 April 2005 Consensus letter to Sir David Normington.

Lisa Blakemore-Brown
Psychologist
B.Sc.MSc.C.Psychol.A.F.B.Ps.S

Sir David Normington
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3BT

PROTOCOL: Signatories' Declaration

By replying to this email, and giving my contact details, and my membership of any relevant bodies, I agree that my name should be added to the list of co-signatories of the Consensus (FLR) letter to Sir David Normington on the substitution of the EI project by the Fam Res project by Mr Bruce Clark.

I confirm that I have read and agree with the Consensus FLR letter to Sir David Normington; and that I have read, understood and am familiar with the contents of the Exhibits attached to the Normington letter.

- 1. Name:.....
- 2. Address:.....
- 3. Postcode:.....

phone number.....

- 4. Position in any relevant organisation
(e.g. Secretary, Consensus; Mediator (UKCM); Local Convenor, F4J; Member, FNF; solicitor, SFLA)

.....

Signatories to the Consensus