

From: The Rt. Hon. The Lord Archer of Sandwell, Q.C.

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Thank you for your letter of 22 August, which was delayed in reaching me owing to the holiday.

I am grateful for your information on prion removal technologies. I would be grateful to learn the outcome of the evaluation by the Advisory Committees when they are available.

In response to your question as to a possible date for the conclusion of our Inquiry, it is now clear that our initial estimate, of a report by the end of the summer, was considerably over-optimistic. We are still hoping that it may be possible to report early in the New Year.

If I may trouble you with one further matter, our attention has been called to a letter written by someone in the Department to Mrs GRO-A (reference TO00000224816). The third paragraph has occasioned some consternation, since it appears to imply that the Department has been requesting further meetings since April, and that these have been ignored by the Inquiry. However the misconception may have arisen, it is clearly misleading, and I would be grateful if you could take steps to ensure that it is not repeated in any future correspondence.

As you may imagine, we have received a great deal of oral evidence, and a very substantial amount of documentary information. I understand that shortly the Department intends to release some 4,600 official documents under the Freedom of Information Act, and perhaps we could discuss a convenient way in which they could be made available to us. We have endeavoured not to trouble you before the issues become clear, but in due course I would be grateful if we could indeed have a further meeting.