

Tom

I advise against MS(HS) agreeing to a meeting. As you will see, the "letter" is in fact a copy of a letter from David Body to me, and of my reply to him - rather an unusual approach to a Minister. There is no actual message for the Minister - except, presumably, an implied dissatisfaction with my reply. In fact, David Body and I have corresponded further on some of these matters. Our Solicitors are also involved.

In due course, SofS will be meeting the Chairman of the vCJD Trust (Sir Robert Owen). That is the proper connection for Ministers - IM are just one (albeit the largest) of the firms of solicitors representing clients' interests to the Trust. It is important that Ministers keep all this activity at arm's length, and let the Trustees get on with their (independent) job.

I suggest that you simply email the solicitor to say that the Minister is aware that their firm is already in correspondence with DH officials on a number of complex questions concerning the vCJD Trust; and that the Minister will be briefed by officials in due course. A meeting at this juncture would not be appropriate.

I am copying all this to Jacky, because of the oblique reference to MS(PH) in the email below.

Jonathan Stopes-Roe  
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**GRO-C**