

William Connon

18/04/2006 14:50

To: Jacky Buchan/PR-OFF/DOH/GB@GRO-C

cc: Ailsa Wight/PH6/DOH/GB@GRO-C; Hugh

Nicholas/PH6/DOH/GB@GRO-C; John

Chan/PR-OFF/DOH/GB@GRO-C; Rebecca

Spavin/ICB/DOH/GB@GRO-C; Zubeda Seedat/PH6/DOH/GB@GRO-C

bcc:

Subject: Re: PQ09390 - Starred PQ Lord Jenkins of Roding

Jacky,

The answers to your question are as follows:

Q: Why didn't we check what papers the Devolved Administrations held when we found out we had destroyed some files?

A: I don't know and there is no way of establishing the facts now. It appears that no-one did think to check with DA's which I agree was remiss.

Q: Also, we state BPL did not take plasma sourced from US prisoner donations but that clinicians could purchase imported products and some Directors would request details of the source. Why didn't BPL take plasma sources from US prisoners - were there concerns? If so, why wasn't guidance issued to Directors about the purchase of imported products.

A: BPL did not take plasma from prisoners simply because it didn't have to and felt it was better to avoid doing so for obvious reasons. I do not know why guidance was not issued to Directors and can only assume it was not felt to be necessary.

Q: Finally, PS(PH) is not convinced by the argument about destruction of documents from Lord Owen's private office. She said there surely must have been guidance from Cabinet Office - isn't there guidance now?

A: Private offices are not required to hold papers. All papers should be routinely either returned to officials in the department or destroyed. Cabinet Office have never issued guidance for that reason.

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