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From: Anita James

Date: 8 December 1999

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Message: Please see the attached letter.

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BY FAX & BY POST

Deas Mallen Souter
Solicitors
Eldon Chambers
23 The Quayside
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 3DE

Date: Wednesday, 08 December 1999

Dear Sirs,

Re: Hepatitis Litigation

I am sorry that I have not been back to you before now about inspection. The good news is that it appears we anticipated would be such a process and we have some lever arch files containing the documents you require to see. However, in the eleven years that have passed DH has moved about somewhat and I need to ensure that we disclose the relevant documents. We discussed an end date and I wonder if your suggestion could be extended to Friday 4th February 2000. After that date, I will be away on a course but I would like the extra week to achieve the desired result.

Two points of information. At the present moment, I am not sure of the status of the Advisory Committee on Hepatitis. However, we do have minutes of the Virological Safety Committee which are relevant. Secondly, the Department has never had the minutes listed at (iii) in your draft application. May I respectfully suggest you ask the National Blood Transfusion Service for them.

Yours faithfully

GRO-C

MRS ANITA JAMES
(Head of Litigation)