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The Rt. Hon. the Lord Jenkin of Roding



Please reply to:

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London SW1A 0PW.

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Lord Hunt of Kings Heath, OBE,
Minister of State, Department of Health

26th February 2007

*Filed in
meds-*

Dear Philip,

MS(R) 101885

Confirming my telephone call, with reference to your letter of the 16th February, it would seem sensible for me to wait until the report to which you refer is available. I look forward to receiving a copy. In the meantime, I am delighted that the Department has agreed to institute an inquiry into the whole issue of contaminated blood products and I have offered to help the inquiry in any I can.

Yours

DEPT OF HEALTH
Rt Hon Lord Hunt
26 FEB 2007
CORRESPONDENCE
PRIVATE OFFICE CC21

GRO-C

From the Minister of State
Lord Hunt of Kings Heath OBE



Richmond House
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Tel: 020 7210 3000

The Rt. Hon. the Lord Jenkin of Roding
House of Lords
London SW1A 0PW

16 February 2007

Dear Petril

MS(R) 101885

Thank you for your good wishes on my return to the Department of Health. I am pleased to be back and looking forward to working with the NHS again.

You refer, in your letter of the 8th January, to the review of documents relating blood safety between 1970 and 1985 and those documents returned by the firm of solicitors earlier last year. The Department appointed Linda Page, a grade 6 civil servant, to carry out a review of all the available documents and to produce a report.

The report is expected in February. The files you refer to are available for you to examine but you may find it more valuable to examine these after you have received the report. I will send you, as Norman Warner arranged, a copy of the report as soon as it is available.

Should you wish to examine the files before receiving the report my officials will ensure that these are made available to you. In this case I suggest you contact Linda Page or **GRO-C** or alternatively Zubeda Seedat on

GRO-C

You will be pleased to know that the majority of documents returned by the firm of solicitors were released in line with FOI in November last year.

I hope this is helpful.

GRO-C

PHILIP HUNT

Sir Nigel Crisp

From: Zubeda Seedat
Date: 6 February 2006
Copy: Gerard Hetherington
Ailsa Wight
Rebecca Spavin
Jacky Buchan
William Connors
Linda Wishart
Steve Wells

CORRESPONDENCE FROM LORD JENKIN OF RODING: CEOP055671

1. Lord Jenkin has written again about the issue of record management in the Department of Health and why papers on the issue of haemophilia patients infected with hepatitis C have been destroyed. Lord Jenkin has also asked when the report on self sufficiency in blood products in England and Wales will be published. A draft letter is attached at Annex A.

Background

As you know,
2. (Lord Jenkin has been seeking access to papers on the treatment of haemophilia patients and blood safety, which he would have had access to when he was the Secretary of State for Health and Social Security (DHSS), between 1979-1981. His request for access to papers was made following a letter he received from **GRO-A** **GRO-A** a haemophilia patient infected with Hepatitis C and HIV through blood products.

3. Lord Jenkin was informed that, many papers from the 1970's and 1980's were destroyed. During the HIV litigation in 1990 many papers from that period were recalled. Our understanding is that some of these papers were not adequately archived and were unfortunately destroyed in the early 1990's.

4. Following Lord Jenkin's enquiries, we established that a number of files, mostly papers and minutes of the Advisory Committee on Virological Safety of Blood were destroyed in the 1990's. During the discovery exercise for the Hepatitis C litigation in 2000 it emerged that a number of files were missing. A low key investigation was undertaken, by colleagues in Internal Audit to establish why files were destroyed. We managed to obtain a copy of the Internal Audit Report from colleagues in Solicitors Division.

5. In the reply to Lord Jenkin dated 1 December at Annex B, we made reference to the fact that, officials have discovered that further papers were destroyed. Lord Jenkin has passed this letter onto members of the haemophilia community. This has prompted accusations that the Department deliberately destroyed documents.

6. Lord Jenkin refers to the report on Self-Sufficiency in Blood Products in England and Wales. This relates to an informal review to clarify the facts surrounding the drive for UK Self Sufficiency in blood products in the 1970's and 1980's. This was commissioned in 2002. It has taken some time to complete this report, which is based on a review of papers that we do hold. The report will be published on 27 February.

Lord Jenkin has been informed, by Lord Warner's office that the report will be published at the end of February.

Zubeda Seedat

Room: 530 Wellington House

Ext: **GRO-C**

Annex A

The Rt. Hon. The Lord Jenkin of Roding
House of Lords
Westminster
London SW1A 0PW

Thank you for your letter of 14 December.

When we met in April I explained that certain papers dating back to the 1970's and 1980's had been destroyed following the HIV litigation. Following your enquiries, officials established that a number of other files were also marked for destruction. As I said in my previous reply, I am very sorry that many papers have been destroyed.

You have asked about the publication date for the review of papers on Self Sufficiency in Blood Products. This review is based on documents that we do hold. I understand, that you have been informed that the report will be published at the end of February. Officials will of course ensure that you are sent a copy.

SIR NIGEL CRISP

~~* I understand that the Scottish Executive~~