

Review of Documentation Related to the Safety of Blood Products: 1970 - 1985

Progress Report for Period 26 June – 14 July 2006 Updated for meeting on the 27 July.

1) Project Documentation

The project initiation document (PID) has been drafted, circulated for comment and revised. The document is attached for approval. Note that the end date for the project, of October 2006, is subject to review in mid August.

2) Progress against planned activities.

a) PID and project plan.

These have been produced and subject to approval of the Board.

b) Project Controls.

The Project Board has been established and Quality Assurance identified.

c) Wellington House - Document Inventory.

There are 47 lever arch files at Wellington House. The inventory was scheduled to start on the 3rd July, completing on 24th July utilising existing staff. A temporary member of staff was bought in on the 13th July and the completion date moved to the 15th August. This has no impact on overall timeline and experience to date demonstrates that the revised timeline for this activity will be maintained.

d) Returned Documents (SOL) – FOI Redaction. The independent Counsel completed the review of these documents on the 28th June, ahead of schedule. A photocopy of the documents will be returned to Wellington House by the 19th July. Redaction required under FOIA will then start. Documents were returned on the 20th. These are being photocopied to redact for FOI.

e) Self Sufficiency Report and References - FOI Review.

The review of the report and references was completed on 12th July. Copies of the references not in the public domain have been redacted for release under FOIA. Outstanding actions:

- There are four documents not yet located. All documents have now been located.
- A request was made to the Scottish Executive to review one document and advise on release. This refers to Scotland implementing a 'quick and dirty' approach to heat treatment. Scotland have requested that this be redacted, exemption under FOI that 'it would damage relationship with devolved administration.
- One document, marked 'Restricted Legal' has been copied to SOL for advice. We have been advised that the content is not legal advice and can be released without redaction.
- A note on the redactions made is to be provided to DH FOI and DCA, they are undertaking a final review prior to release.
- One document provides information to a Select Committee. Information given to Select Committees is covered by parliamentary privilege and is the property of the House. We can't therefore release it from here, but the House of Commons might be able to. This is being followed up.
- DCA have advised that release of these documents should go through the Perm Sec's office, as per the ministerially agreed process on

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papers of previous administrations. A timescale for this has not yet been established and is dependent on outstanding actions above.

Approval to release has been received from Hugh Taylor.

These actions will be chased/pursued week commencing 17th July.

3) Unplanned Activities

Review and preparation of Self-Sufficiency Report references for release under FOI, (e) above). Related cases under FOIA have now been incorporated in the Project.

Linda Page,
Project Manager.
14 July 2006.