

University College London Hospitals



NHS Foundation Trust

National Prion Clinic

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IN CONFIDENCE

26 January 2006

2/270

Prof Sir Liam Donaldson
Chief Medical Officer
Department of Health
Richmond House
79 Whitehall
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Dear Liam

Clinical management of known recipients of blood transfusion from vCJD-prion infected donors

Further to my letter of 23 January regarding my urgent concerns on this matter, I am writing to inform you that I have subsequently seen one of this group of patients, recently referred by his GP to my colleague Stephen Wroe at the National Prion Clinic. We have made a clinical diagnosis of vCJD and a tonsil biopsy is pending.

This gentleman, who has been symptomatic for some considerable time, could have been referred to us more than a year ago thus avoiding inappropriate treatment and giving him the option to enter the MRC PRION-1 therapy trial - which he has now chosen to do. Understandably in my opinion, the family have expressed some anger at the way this matter has been handled.

This case illustrates precisely the concerns that I have raised repeatedly with the Department for over a year. The identification of this third transfusion-associated case from such a small cohort further strengthens my assessment that the other remaining known exposed individuals are at high risk.

I would be grateful for an urgent response to my request that we be given the opportunity to contact the GP's of the remaining individuals to offer rapid assessment of their patients at the NPC.



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This matter has greatly highlighted other related concerns for me and I would also value a personal meeting with you at the earliest opportunity to discuss these.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

GRO-C

~~John Collinge FRS~~
Professor of Neurology

Cc Professor Alan Thompson, Clinical Director, National Hospital for Neurology
and Neurosurgery
Professor David Fish, Medical Director and Robert Naylor, Chief Executive,
UCLH NHS Foundation Trust