

To: Jill Moorcroft

From: Zubeda Seedat

Date: 12 July 2006

Copy: Ailsa Wight
William Connors
Linda Page
Pauline Agboke

Request for an internal review: Case 1923R: DE_103613

GRO-A

1. Mr. **GRO-A** has requested documents that were disclosed by the Department in the HIV and Hepatitis C litigation which were recently returned to Departmental solicitors (SOL).
2. There are a substantial number of documents. We understand that there are 12 lever arch files. We maintain that it would exceed the appropriate limit under Section 12 of the Act to fulfil this request.
3. You will wish to be aware that in response to a request from Ministers we arranged for SOL to commission an initial analysis of what the returned papers contain and provide a listing of all the documents. This work was completed by an independent legal expert (panel counsel). I attach for your information the minute from our solicitors and the report produced by counsel.
4. Although this request exceeds the time limit applied to FOI cases, Ministers are sympathetic towards placing as many of the documents as possible in the public arena. You will see that counsel has commented that they see no reason why these documents should not be disclosed and released into the public domain under the FOIA.
5. SOL are arranging for the papers to be sent to us, and we will very shortly be looking at the papers, with a view to releasing as many documents that we can under FOIA.
6. We are not convinced that Mr. **GRO-A** has produced further evidence/arguments as to why he considers the original decision was incorrect. In any case we are looking to release the documents.
7. Please let me know if you require any more information.

Zubeda Seedat
Blood Policy Team
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Ext: **GRO-C**