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PH-HP (Director) Documents - Unformatted Document

**"Re: Contaminated blood products files"**

File Reference: **WRK/003/005**  
File Title: **Working Files - Sent - Oct 2006**  
Filed by: **Laura Kennedy/OIS/DOH on 12/02/2008 at 11:52**  
Created by: **Elizabeth Woodeson/CQEG/DOH/GB on 08/10/2006 at 23:26**

, <- By default all readers can see document.

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**Modification History:**

[Redacted]

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**Elizabeth Woodeson**  
08/10/2006 23:26

PMD/DOH/GB

To: William Connon/PD-  
cc:  
bcc:  
Subject: Re: Contaminated  
blood products files

Dear William

I was talking to Jacky Buchan last week to ask her advice about issues the minister might raise with me when I meet her for an introductory session on Wednesday morning. One of the things Jacky mentioned was a letter to Lord Jenkin about contaminated blood products files. Apparently Caroline is very worried about this and has agreed with Lord Warner that he should write urgently to Lord Jenkin to clarify whether the 47 files mentioned in the letter were included in the self sufficiency report. If not, she thinks we are in big trouble! (I must confess I don't fully understand why and you will need to explain it to me....)

Jacky forwarded me this chain of emails by way of background. I was rather concerned when I read Linda's letter because it's not very clear at all. (and not terribly well written either). I appreciate from your email that Sophie told you it was not necessary to clear the reply with Lord Warner before sending it. However her email to Linda on 27/9 specifically asked for sight of the draft **before** it went out so I can't understand why Linda didn't clear it first.

Anyway, since Jacky has asked for this by close on Monday, I think we should oblige. I appreciate it will be Linda's first day back but surely it won't take very long to write a brief submission explaining the situation with regard to these 47 files and giving Lord Warner a follow up letter of clarification to send to Lord Jenkin? I would really like all this to be done and dusted before I see the minister on Wednesday.

Also, please remember to copy me into all correspondence with ministers and their offices in future (as well as clearing submissions with me before they are sent).

Many thanks William. I won't be in Wellington tomorrow but am available on my mobile if you need to discuss. That reminds me - please can I have your mobile number? I tried to ring you on Thursday afternoon to discuss this but couldn't as I didn't have your number.

Liz Woodeson  
Director of Health Protection

Room **GRO-C**  
Richmond House  
79 Whitehall  
London  
Tel: **GRO-C**  
Mobile: **GRO-C**

----- Forwarded by Elizabeth Woodeson/CQEG/DOH/GB on 08/10/2006 23:03 -----

**Jacky Buchan**  
05/10/2006 16:27

Woodeson/CQEG/DOH/GB@**GRO-C**

To: Elizabeth

cc:

Subject: Re: Contaminated

blood products files

as discussed

Jacky Buchan  
Assistant Private Secretary  
to Caroline Flint MP  
Minister of State for Public Health

Tel: **GRO-C**

----- Forwarded by Jacky Buchan/PR-OFF/DOH/GB on 05/10/2006 16:25 -----

**William Connon**  
05/10/2006 12:33

OFF/DOH/GB@**GRO-C**

To: Jacky Buchan/PR-

cc: Ailsa

Wight/PH6/DOH/GB@**GRO-C**; Linda Page/SSU/DOH/GB@**GRO-C**;  
Rebecca Lloyd/ICB/DOH/GB@**GRO-C**; Sarah Fisher-  
Mackey/ICB/DOH/GB, Sophie Longbottom/WD-WFC-  
PMCC/DOH/GB, Zubeda Seedat/PH6/DOH/GB@**GRO-C**

bcc:

Subject: Re: Contaminated

blood products files 



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Jacky,

It will be difficult to get this to you by close Monday as Linda Page who is dealing with this is on leave all week and does not return until Monday. Can I therefore suggest that we aim to get this to you by close Wednesday 11th?

I understand that Lord Warner has agreed to write to Lord Jenkin on this matter and I suggest that rather than preparing a separate submission we wrap these two requests up together and provide a draft letter for Lord Jenkin with a covering background note, which will go to MS(PH) and MS(R). I also believe Lord Jenkin spoke to Linda on her mobile before she went on leave. He has therefore had a fairly speedy response to date.

On your last point about "sensitivities" it was I who took the original call from Sophie last week requesting a letter was issued to Lord Jenkin, following his telephone call to Lord Warner's office. I specifically asked if a ministerial reply was required but was told that was not necessary and that we should simply issue a treat official reply which was then done. Treat official replies are not routinely cleared with Private Offices and no request to do so was made on this occasion.

Regards

Linda - will you pick this up on your return please?

William G Connon  
Department of Health  
5th Floor  
Wellington House  
Waterloo Road  
London  
SE1 8EG

GRO-C

Jacky Buchan

Jacky Buchan  
05/10/2006 11:56

To: William  
Connon/PD-PMD/DOH/GB@[GRO-C], Linda  
Page/SSU/DOH/GB@[GRO-C]  
cc: Rebecca  
Lloyd/ICB/DOH/GB@[GRO-C] Zubeda  
Seedat/PH6/DOH/GB@[GRO-C] Sophie Longbottom/WD-WFC-  
PMCC/DOH/GB, Ailsa Wight/PH6/DOH/GB@[GRO-C], Sarah  
Fisher-Mackey/ICB/DOH/GB  
bcc: Contaminated  
Subject: blood products files

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William,

Can I please have an urgent short submission in a form that can be put directly to MS(PH) and MS(R) regarding the 47 files referred to in the letter. The letter states these are not newly discovered - were they considered as part of the report on self sufficiency? There is no indication in this letter as to whether they were/were not. If they were not, can you please provide an explanation.

Also, it would have been helpful given the sensitivity of this issue if the letter had come for Minister's approval before being sent out, particularly given who the recipient was and the request that the letter be brought to the attention of MS(PH) and MS(R).

Grateful for the submission by 4pm Monday at the latest.

Many thanks

Jacky Buchan  
Assistant Private Secretary  
to Caroline Flint MP  
Minister of State for Public Health

Tel: **GRO-C**

----- Forwarded by Jacky Buchan/PR-OFF/DOH/GB on 05/10/2006 11:25 -----

**Linda Page**

27/09/2006 15:51

To:

Lloyd/ICB/DOH/GB@[GRO-C]

Rebecca

cc:

Burke/POLICY/DOH/GB@[GRO-C] Jacky Buchan/PR-OFF/DOH/GB@[GRO-C] Sarah Fisher-Mackey/ICB/DOH/GB, William Connon/PD-PMD/DOH/GB@[GRO-C] Sophie Longbottom/WD-WFC-PMCC/DOH/GB, Zubeda Seedat/PH6/DOH/GB@[GRO-C]

David

bcc:

Subject:

Jenkin and contaminated blood products files

Re: Lord

Rebecca

Referring to Sophie's email below, I attach a copy of the response that I have posted to Lord Jenkin today.



Lord Jenkin 27-09-06.doc

Regards

Linda

Linda Page

Tel: **GRO-C**

Mobile: GRO-C  
Department of Health  
5th Floor  
Wellington House  
Waterloo Road  
London  
SE1 8EG

Email: Linda.page@GRO-C

Sophie Longbottom

**Sophie Longbottom**

27/09/2006 12:19

To: Linda  
Page/SSU/DOH/GB  
cc: Jacky  
Buchan/PR-OFF/DOH/GB, Sarah Fisher-Mackey/ICB/DOH/GB,  
Rebecca Lloyd/ICB/DOH/GB, William Connors/PD-  
PMD/DOH/GB, David Burke/POLICY/DOH/GB  
bcc: Lord Jenkin and  
Subject: contaminated blood products files



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Linda

I've just had a word with William who advised me to address this to you.

Lord Jenkin has called to say he and one of his campaigners have received letters from an official with the surname 'Burke' - assuming this is David from CSC who leads MS(PH)'s correspondence team. He is under the impression that DH has had the 47 boxes of files/or has 47 boxes of files now.

He has asked for a letter and it to be brought to the attention of MS(R) (and MS(PH)). In particular he would like to know where we've got to in examining the files, and whether the 47 boxes were the ones which were sent down from the Scottish lawyers. I understand that Lord Jenkin has inspected our premises in person, in line with his entitlement as a former health Minister, and found no files.

Apologies for this email as my knowledge of this is scant. Rebecca Spavin who was dealing with this in this office has now left and **Rebecca Lloyd** will be dealing with any business relating to MS(PH)'s portfolio in the Lords.

I'd be grateful if you could look into any correspondence issued relating to this matter and getting a response together for issue as soon as practicable before the House reconvenes on 9th October. If it is answered as a TO I'd also be appreciative if we could have sight of the draft before it goes out as I'm keen Lord Warner should be kept informed. He may see Lord Jenkin at some point and

wouldn't want him to be caught out unaware.

Many thanks and happy to discuss.

Sophie

Sophie Longbottom

Assistant Private Secretary to MS(R) - Minister of State for Reform

GRO-C