

**"FW: PQ"**

Document Type:	Formal
File Title:	GHP - Blood Policy - Haemophilia - Self Sufficiency in Blood Products
File Reference:	GHP/005/006/027 Vol 2
Protective Marking:	No Marking
Filed by:	Zubeda Seedat/PH6/DOH/GB on 09/09/2008 at 11:31
Created by:	"Charles Lister" on 09/09/2008 at 11:31

Named Security Prior To Moving To Archive:

Who can edit?	Nobody
Who has edited?	Zubeda Seedat/PH6/DOH/GB
Who can read?	All readers of the document database

Modification History Prior To Moving To Archive:

Modified Date and Time	Details
18/08/2009 14:47	Modified registered file
08/02/2012 15:48	Refiled from GHP/005/006/027 to GHP/005/006/027 Vol 2

"Charles Lister"

<charles.lister@GRO-C>

10/06/2003 13:13

ToZubeda Seedat/PH1/DOH/GB@GRO-C
ccRichard Gutowski/MDA/DOH/GB@GRO-C Vicki
King/PH6/DOH/GB@GRO-C

bcc

SubjectFW: PQ

Zubeda

The remit for the work done by Peter Burgin was to review surviving documents from 1973 to 1985 to address a number of issues, chiefly:

- how the Department implemented the policy of UK self sufficiency in blood products begun in 1973 (Lord Owen has said publicly that officials did not carry out his wishes);
- to chart the developing understanding of the seriousness of non A/non B hepatitis (later identified as hepatitis C);
- to examine the extent to which problems at BPL delayed the achievement of self sufficiency;
- whether the achievement of self sufficiency would have led to fewer cases of hepatitis C in haemophilia patients.

It was not set up to address Lord Owen's allegation, dating from the late 80s, that the papers from his period as a Minister had been "pulped".

Unfortunately, none of the key submissions to Ministers about self sufficiency from the 70s/early 80s appear to have survived. Our search of relevant surviving files from the time failed to find any. One explanation for this is that papers marked for public interest immunity during the discovery process on the HIV litigation have since been destroyed in a clear out by SOL (there is an email from Anita James to me confirming this). This would have happened at some time in the mid 90s.

I suspect that Lord Owen's allegation about pulped papers refers to the papers kept by Private Office which are never kept after a change of Government. They are either shredded or handed back to the relevant policy section. However, the fact that we can no longer find any of these documents - so can't say what Ministers did or didn't know about the state of play on self sufficiency - just plays into the hands of the conspiracy theorists.

Peter Burgin's report nonetheless contains some useful stuff. However, before we make it more widely available it needs (I think):

- An executive summary;

- References added both to the documents quoted (eg quotes from published articles should be fully referenced) and to back up statements which otherwise remain unsubstantiated, eg paras 5 of page 9 states "at this time [1993] it was felt that there were dangers in absolute self sufficiency leading to a reliance on a sole supplier of blood products". It's no good putting this out unless we can say who felt this and in what context it was said. We should also be able to give Ministers the option of releasing documents that corroborate statements made in the report.

- you may also wish to consider sending - with Ministers agreement - a final draft to some of the people consulted - eg Frank Hill, Terry Snape, Karin Pappenheim for comments on factual accuracy.

As to the PQ, one possible response is to say something like:

'An informal review is being undertaken by the Department of Health to clarify the facts surrounding the drive for UK self sufficiency in blood products in the 1970s and 1980s. The review has been based on papers available from the time but has not addressed allegations that files from that period went missing. The outcome of the review has not yet been presented to Ministers.'

Hope this is helpful.

Charles

-----Original Message-----

From: Zubeda.Seedat [GRO-C](mailto:Zubeda.Seedat@GRO-C) [mailto:Zubeda.Seedat@GRO-C]
Sent: 05 June 2003 16:17
To: Charles Lister
Subject: PQ

Charles,

I attach the PQ which refers to the Peter Burgin report.

The Lord Clement-Jones - To ask Her Majesty's Government what review has been carried out of the circumstances in which files relating to liability for the supply of blood products, which were compiled while Lord Owen was Health Minister, went missing; and what has been the outcome. (HL3208)

Zubeda

PS: All very impressed that you are coming in this weekend!

- - Disclaimer - -

This e-mail and any files transmitted with it are confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, any reading, printing, storage, disclosure, copying or any other action taken in respect of this e-mail is prohibited and may be unlawful. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender immediately by using the reply function and then permanently delete what you have received.

Incoming and outgoing e-mail messages are routinely monitored for compliance with the Department of Health's policy on the use of electronic communications. For more information on the Department of Health's e-mail policy click here <http://www.doh.gov.uk/emaildisclaimer.htm>

This e-mail transmission is strictly confidential and intended solely for the person or organisation to whom it is addressed. It may contain privileged and confidential information and if you are not the intended recipient, you must not copy, distribute or take any action in reliance on it. If you have received this e-mail in error, please notify us as soon as possible and delete it.

The Human Fertilisation & Embryology Authority accepts no responsibility once an e-mail and any attachments leave us.

PLEASE NOTE: THE ABOVE MESSAGE WAS RECEIVED FROM THE INTERNET.

On entering the GSI, this email was scanned for viruses by the Government Secure Intranet (GSI) virus scanning service supplied exclusively by Cable & Wireless in partnership with MessageLabs.

DH users, see Guide to Email virus scanning under Security in DH on the Notice Board, for further details. In case of problems, please call IT support helpdesk.