

Action taken to retrieve papers

We contacted Departmental Records Office and National Archives Office to obtain a list of files which are held which have the following key words:

Blood
Plasma
BPL
Transfusion
Hepatitis

We further narrowed down the files to the period 1979- 1981. We have about 20 files from this period.

Guidance from the Propriety and Ethics Team at the Cabinet office have advised us that Lord Jenkin can have access to the full registered files so long as they relate to his period in office (this is 4 May 1979- 14 September 1981). Where we have files which include papers either before or after his term in office we have put a pink sheet to indicate papers which do not cover his period in office. The other option was to extract papers which would be resource intensive.

I have had a quick look through some of the files to see whether I could identify papers which Lord Jenkin says would have passed his desk when he was SofS. However, it does not look too hopeful and you may want to warn him. Obviously we cannot be responsible for the record keeping during this period.

Because of his interest in the whole issue of haemophilia patients infected with contaminated blood products, you may want to mention the report on the review of papers into self sufficiency in blood products and that we will send him a copy of the report when it is finalised.

23 June 2005