

Falconer S (Sandra)

From: David.Reay@GRO-C
Sent: 08 June 2004 16:23
To: Falconer S (Sandra)
Cc: Stock RG (Bob); Richard.Gutowski@GRO-C
Subject: Manor House Gp - line to take



MHG HIV document
line to take....

This email has been received from an external party and
has been swept for the presence of computer viruses.

Sandra, thanks for your fax. Attached below is the line we used for the Sunday Herald enquiry.

Below is the line to take that we are likely to use, and indeed have been using for the last month or so in response to the other documents accusing the Govt of a cover up. However, grateful if you could wait for confirmation if you plan to use the same line. Thanks

David

Mr/Mrs X has asked that the Department of Health disclose internal documents relating to the inadvertent infection of haemophiliacs with hepatitis C. In order to fully respond to his/her comments, I feel it is prescient to wait for the completion of an informal review of internal papers commissioned by my predecessor Yvette Cooper in 2002. This review is being undertaken by the Department of Health to clarify the facts surrounding the drive for self-sufficiency in blood products in the UK in the 1970s and 1980s. The review is based on papers available at the time.

A draft report has been prepared but there remain a number of outstanding issues that need to be addressed before it can be finalised. I am aware that it has been some time since the review was first commissioned and have therefore asked officials to take forward further work so that the report can be completed as quickly as possible. We will of course let you know when this is the case.

----- Forwarded by David Reay/POLICY/DOH/GB on 08/06/2004 15:57 -----

David Reay

To: David Daley/COMMS/DOH/GB@GRO-C
04/06/2004 17:24 cc: Richard Gutowski/PH6/DOH/GB@GRO-C Zubeda
Seedat/PH6/DOH/GB@GRO-C
bcc:
Subject: Manor House Gp - line to take

(See attached file: MHG HIV document line to take.doc)David, as promised. Hope you enjoy your weekend.

David

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The Department of Health would not wish to comment on any documents that it has not yet seen or fully considered, nor comment on unsubstantiated allegations. However, if it has not done so already, the Manor House Group is welcome to submit documents to officials in the Department of Health, with whom it has recently met.

Heat treatment to prevent the spread of HIV through blood products was introduced in England in 1985. Donor screening for hepatitis C was introduced in the UK in 1991. The development of both marked a major advance in microbiological technology, which could not have been implemented before this time.

The Government does not accept that any wrongful practices were employed and does not consider a public inquiry justified, as it does not believe that any new light would be shed on this issue as a result.