

Witness Name: Jason Jonathan Evans

Statement No: WITN1210008

Exhibits: WITN1210009-036

Dated: February 2020

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

EXHIBIT WITN1210022



Department of Health & Social Care

Freedom of Information Team
Department of Health and Social Care
39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU

www.gov.uk/dhsc

Mr JJ Evans

request-462267-426e257d@

GRO-C

5 March 2018

Dear Mr Evans

Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1118059

Thank you for your request dated 2 February in which you asked the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC):

"Dear Department of Health and Social Care,

Under FOI, please can you tell me the status of your file GEB 1 VOL 1?

Further, in relation to the below list of files in this series please could you advise as to what information the Department holds as to why Volumes 4 -15 were deemed suitable for destruction but volumes 2 - 3 were not and advise if there are any further volumes in this series?

| | | | |
|-----|---|----|---------------------------|
| GEB | 1 | 1 | Missing |
| GEB | 1 | 2 | Available |
| GEB | 1 | 3 | Available |
| GEB | 1 | 4 | Destroyed during mid-90's |
| GEB | 1 | 5 | Destroyed during mid-90's |
| GEB | 1 | 6 | Destroyed during mid-90's |
| GEB | 1 | 7 | Destroyed during mid-90's |
| GEB | 1 | 8 | Destroyed during mid-90's |
| GEB | 1 | 9 | Destroyed during mid-90's |
| GEB | 1 | 10 | Destroyed during mid-90's |
| GEB | 1 | 11 | Destroyed during mid-90's |
| GEB | 1 | 12 | Destroyed during mid-90's |
| GEB | 1 | 13 | Destroyed during mid-90's |

| | | | |
|-----|---|----|----------------------------|
| GEB | 1 | 14 | Destroyed during mid-90's |
| GEB | 1 | 15 | Destroyed during mid-90's" |

Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

DHSC holds some of the information you have requested.

1) Under FOI, please can you tell me the status of your file GEB 1 VOL 1?

This file was requested from storage and booked out to a member of staff but has not been returned to storage.

2) Further, in relation to the below list of files in this series please could you advise as to what information the Department holds as to why Volumes 4 -15 were deemed suitable for destruction but volumes 2 - 3 were not.

I can confirm that the Department holds information relevant to your request.

However, as the information held by the Department is in the public domain, we will under Section 21 of the FOI Act (information accessible to the applicant by other means) refer you to the published source.

DHSC has published a response to a Freedom of Information Act request which gave details of the management of files within the Department, which is available in the 'webarchive' at;

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/FreedomOfInformation/Freedomofinformationpublicationschemefeedback/FOIreleases/DH_4107922

The guidance makes reference to the retention schedule which outlines the type of material that should be retained, and how long for. Paper files will generally be kept for between 2 and 15 years, and records which should be considered for permanent preservation at The National Archives are marked for second review. The National Archives has collection policies, and not everything created by government department will be selected. They publish their policies at <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/our-role/plans-policies-performance-and-projects/our-policies/> but if you have specific questions about their collections you should make an enquiry to them.

3) Advise if there are any further volumes in this series?

There are further volumes in this series as follows:

GEB/1/V0016 - General Advisory Committee on the Virological Safety of Blood – this file was destroyed 03/04/1997

GEB/1/V0017 - General Advisory Committee on the Virological Safety of Blood – this file was destroyed 02/06/1997

GEB/1/V0018 - General Advisory Committee on the Virological Safety of Blood – at Iron Mountain awaiting permanence review

GEB/1/V0019 - General Advisory Committee on the Virological Safety of Blood – at Iron Mountain awaiting permanence review

GEB/1/V0020 - General Advisory Committee on the Virological Safety of Blood – at Iron Mountain awaiting permanence review

GEB/1/V0021 - General Advisory Committee on the Virological Safety of Blood – at Iron Mountain awaiting permanence review.

If you are not satisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to appeal by asking for an internal review. This should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to the address at the top of this letter, or the email address at the end of this letter.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may complain directly to the Information Commissioner (ICO) who may decide to investigate your concerns. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have already appealed our original response, and received our internal review response. The ICO will not usually investigate concerns where there has been an undue delay in bringing it to their attention. You should raise your concerns with them within three months of your last meaningful contact with us.

The ICO can be contacted at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

<https://ico.org.uk/concerns/>

Yours sincerely,

Edward Franklyn

Freedom of Information Officer

E FreedomOfInformation@dh.gsi.gov.uk