

**"RE: FOI Website Request Mon Nov 14 12:08:25 GMT 2005"**

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Who can read?	All readers of the document database

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Modified Date and Time	Details
17/03/2009 14:11	Refiled from GHP/005/001/021
18/08/2009 15:05	Modified registered file

**William Connon/PD-
PMD/DOH/GB**

30/11/2005 07:23

To<Sylvia.Shearer@GRO C
ccAileen.Keel@GRO C
Andrew.Macleod@GRO C
Carol.Penning@GRO C
Graham.Matthews@GRO C
ECST/DOH/GB@GRO C; Jan.Marshall@GRO C
Lynda.Sawers@GRO C
Tim.Ellis@GRO C
Trevor.Lodge@GRO C
Uchenna.Abass@GRO C; Kim
Norman/PH6/DOH/GB@GRO C; Ailsa
Wight/PH6/DOH/GB@GRO C; Gerard
Hetherington/HPIHSD/DOH/GB@GRO C; Zubeda
Seedat/PH6/DOH/GB@GRO C

bcc

SubjectRE: FOI Website Request Mon Nov 14 12:08:25 GMT
2005C7281744DD428799802570C8005ECDDDB

Sylvia - thanks for this which is helpful and yes an emailed copy on the index would also be very helpful.

We are taking advice from our FOI team as my main concern is that we simply do not have the resources to go through such a large number of files in the time available. I do understand the predicament that you are in regarding release of this information.

Gerard/Ailsa - I think it would be helpful to discuss this as there is likely to be a significant

amount of parliamentary/media interest in all of this, not least as some of the documents could well be ones which DH has previously been unable to release as our copies have been destroyed. Once we have received advice from FOI team we will need to consider how to handle all this. I have not looked at the various documents as this will be a huge task and I am simply not resourced to carry it out. We should at some stage inform ministers of the release if that goes ahead. There is previous email traffic on this if you wish to see it.

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

GRO-C

<Sylvia.Shearer@GRO-C>

<Sylvia.Shearer@GRO-C> To: William
GRO-C Connon/PD-PMD/DOH/GB@GRO-C
29/11/2005 17:13 <Uchenna.Abass@GRO-C>
cc:
<Carol.Penning@GRO-C>
<Graham.Matthews@GRO-C>, Gron Roberts/DAC-
ECST/DOH/GB@GRO-C Holloway,
<Andrew.Macleod@GRO-C>
<Trevor.Lodge@GRO-C>
<Lynda.Sawers@GRO-C>
<Tim.Ellis@GRO-C>
<Aileen.Keel@GRO-C>
<Jan.Marshall@GRO-C>
bcc:
Subject: RE: FOI
Website Request Mon Nov 14 12:08:25 GMT 2005

Dear William

We have a master cd here with an index of each file content but the index is not on the one that would be released. If you wish, I can have the index emailed to you if you would find that helpful. Just let me know.

As regards your re-iterated comments on the fact that you would have denied this request under FOI, so would I have - I am aware of the FOI rules - but this was NOT an option for my branch as our Minister promised the Scottish representatives of the Haemophilia Society when he met with them in February 2005 in order to counter their claims that we were trying to "cover up" that, as we had nothing to hide, the Executive would release the documentation we held on Hep C, subject to FOI exemptions. This exercise has taken several months, as you know, due to the fact that there were over 100 files that had to be traced and

reviewed, indexed and photocopied. Unlike DoH, the files held here had not been destroyed.

In the intervening time, an MSP and a haemophiliac have both submitted FOI requests covered by these files and they have been told they would be released within the 12 week deadline which expires on 12 December 2005. My timescale is therefore driven by this deadline or I would have been happy to give you more time to review the contents. I forwarded the cd as soon as I could. If it is of any use, if you care to send someone up to review the hard copies, if this would prove easier, we would be happy to assist them.

Once this cd has been released under FOI, the official line will be that there is no new evidence and therefore no justification for a public inquiry, what can be released has been and there is no further action the Executive should take.

The cd has been sent to you due to the timescale covered by the files which was all pre Devolution. You will be aware that we are obliged to release what we hold, unless covered by an exemption, however if there is/are any specific document(s) we have cleared for release that cause concern, I am happy to discuss as we would wish to avoid damaging relations between the two administrations. I note you have copied in MHRA. We have supplied SNBTS with a copy of the disc and they are currently reviewing it.

We are aware, and I have already raised this with you, that there is likely to be considerable media attention and renewed demands for a public inquiry once this information is released and the information is highly likely to be served up "out of context" yet again. If the previous exercise is an indication, it took them several weeks after release to trawl the documents and mount their media campaign which resulted in a BBC Scotland documentary.

You may wish to know that the Minister will be appearing before the Health Committee early in the new year to explain why he still does not think it necessary to hold a public inquiry. The demand for one is relentless in Scotland.

We plan to stick to the line above.

I hope you find this helpful.

Kind regards

Sylvia

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

From: William.Connon@**GRO C** [mailto:William.Connon@**GRO C**]

Sent: 29 November 2005 15:30

To: Shearer S (Sylvia); Uchenna.Abass@**GRO C**

Cc: Carol.Penning@**GRO C** Graham.Matthews@**GRO C**

Gron.Roberts@**GRO C** "Holloway"**GRO C**

Subject: RE: FOI Website Request Mon Nov 14 12:08:25 GMT 2005

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

Sylvia,

Having returned from leave today I have just received your letter and CD regarding this matter.

We need to get advice from our FOI team on how to proceed given that we would not agree to the request for the reasons I have explained to you previously eg work and cost involved. Once we have received that advice I will reply to you officially. I have not had an opportunity to look at the contents of the CD but from your letter and our previous discussions I assume there are a significant number of documents involved and if that is the case we simply will not have time to examine them all within your deadline. That is the very reason why I have previously advised that we would not agree to this request.

It would clearly help if the CD contains an index of the documents, which it may do. I will respond to you once we have contacted our FOI Team.

Regards

William G Connon
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5th Floor
Wellington House
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SE1 8EG

GRO-C

<Sylvia.Shearer@GRO-C>

Connon/PD-PMD/DOH/GB@GRO-C To: William

<Nigel.Goulding@GRO-C>
18/11/2005 16:53 cc:

<Carol.Penning@GRO-C>
<Graham.Matthews@GRO-C> Gron"

<Gron.Roberts@GRO-C> Holloway@GRO-C
<Ian", "MHRA
Information Centre" <info@GRO-C>,>

Sylvia.Shearer@GRO-C Zubeda.Seedat
bcc:

Subject: RE: FOI

Website Request Mon Nov 14 12:08:25 GMT

DHSC5394925_0004

2005

This email and any files transmitted with it are intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed.

Dear William

Thanks for forwarding this email. Nigel has not yet been in touch. We are still working towards our FOI deadline of 12 December 2005 to release the info we hold on Hep C. We now have the materials we are planning to release on CD. Please could someone contact me on Monday morning to let me know to whom you wish the CD sent in order for you to have a look at what we are publishing. This has been a long and tortuous exercise and it is our strategy that, once this information is in the public domain, we can formally take the stance that all that can be released under FOI has been and there is NO new evidence. The files go back to the 1970s. Unlike DoH we had not destroyed them and we have reviewed over 100 files.

All the relevant action took place prior to Devolution, however I am advised by our FOI unit that, as we hold this information, it is up to us to release it if appropriate under FOI. Also our Minister made a public commitment to release what we could under FOI to counter any "conspiracy" theory. I would suggest that what we are releasing is approximately half of what we hold (guesstimate). I have exempted mostly under Sections 28 and 29. The volume has prohibited a detailed explanation of each exemption but for every file we now have a detailed schedule of content and a photocopy of what we are releasing. If it goes to review, we can identify what was held back.

I should say that, with such old files, documentation is incomplete. Quite often a document referred to was not attached so there are gaps in addition to what we withheld.

It is likely that the release of this material will result in renewed calls for a Public Inquiry and a flurry of media attention. Our line will be that there is no new evidence and these issues have all been explored fully in the past. Lessons have been learnt and blood safety measures continue to be a priority for the Service.

Kind regards

Sylvia

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

DHSC5394925_0005

From: William.Connon@GRO-C [mailto:William.Connon@GRO-C]

Sent: 15 November 2005 12:11

To: Goulding, Nigel

Cc: Penning, Dr Carol; Matthews, Graham; Gron "

<Gron.Roberts@GRO-C> " Holloway@GRO-C Ian "

<Ian.Holloway@GRO-C>, " MHRA Information Centre "

<info@GRO-C>, Sylvia.Shearer@GRO-C

Zubeda.Seedat@GRO-C' @GRO-C

Subject: RE: FOI Website Request Mon Nov 14 12:08:25 GMT 2005

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

Nigel,

Thanks for this. On a recent visit to Edinburgh, Sylvia Shearer, in the Scottish Executive, told me that they have a similar FOI request which they are currently accumulating papers on, in Scotland. The intention is to submit their response to us before it is finally cleared as the date of the information is pre-devolution.

I did advise that this request should be refused on the grounds on cost and the time it will take to amass this information - certainly more than 3.5 days. However, Sylvia told me that the Scottish minister has committed them to issuing this information. I remain of the view that we should not issue all the information requested for the reason given as information should be issued under the terms of the FOI Act.

I suggest that you contact Sylvia to establish if this is the same request and ensure we issue a consistent reply.

Sylvia's number is GRO-C

Best wishes

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

GRO-C

"Goulding, Nigel"

<Nigel.Goulding@GRO-C>
Information Centre" <info@GRO-C

To: "MHRA

Ian" <Ian.Holloway@
<Graham.Matthews@
<Carol.Penning@
Roberts/DAC-ECST/DOH/GB
Connon/PD-PMD/DOH/GB

cc: "Holloway,
"Matthews, Graham"
"Penning, Dr Carol"

bcc:

Subject: RE: FOI

2005

Website Request Mon Nov 14 12:08:25 GMT

Alex,

This request is so wide-ranging that I am unable to identify all who might hold information - I personally hold no specific information on the subject of importation of blood/blood components and blood products. It could involve the DMRC (Ian Holloway and Graham Matthews), notifications of importation of unlicensed blood products (Graham Matthews), Biologicals Unit (Carol Penning) and DH Blood Policy (Gron Roberts / William Connon) - this list is by no means exclusive.

As you can see I have copied this to the colleagues mentioned to alert them to the question. However, I think the Scottish MSP should be advised to be more specific in her request.

Regards

Nigel

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

From: MHRA Information Centre

Sent: 15 November 2005 10:29

To: Goulding, Nigel

Subject: FW: FOI Website Request Mon Nov 14 12:08:25 GMT 2005

Nigel

Before we log this as an FOI can you confirm that we hold any information on this. If not do you know who might?

Many thanks

Alex Williamson
Information Centre

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

From: FOI_Website_Request@

GRO C

[mailto:FOI_Website_Request@

GRO C

Sent: 14 November 2005 12:08

To: FOI_request

Subject: FOI Website Request Mon Nov 14 12:08:25 GMT 2005

Details of information Required:

All information, documents, communications etc held regarding imported blood, plasma and blood/plasma products from 1980 onwards.

Title:

Ms

Forename(s):

Carolyn

Surname:

Leckie

Organisation:

Address:

MG.05

Scottish Parliament

Edinburgh

Postcode:

EH99 1SP

Telephone (day):

GRO-C

Mobile:

GRO-C

Email:

carolyn.leckie.msp@

GRO C

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