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**"FW: Freedom of Information request - Davis (John Connors Press Agency) 89054"**

File Reference:	SAX/010/005/001
File Title:	Standards & Quality Analytical Team (SAT) - Blood & Tissue Services - Variant Creutzfeldt Jakob Disease (vCJD) - Potential Transmission Of vCJD Via Blood
Filed by:	Peter Bennett/SAT/DOH/GB on 14/09/2006 at 12:37
Created by:	Ailsa Wight/PH6/DOH/GB on 13/09/2006 at 15:40

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**Ailsa Wight**

13/09/2006 15:40

To: darren hughes  
cc: peter  
bennett/EOR4/DOH/GB, william connon/PD-PMD/DOH/GB  
bcc:  
Subject: FW: Freedom of  
Information request - Davis (John Connors Press Agency) 89054

For stocktake agenda please. Have you got transcript of coroner's verdict yet? Please liaise with William on this as necessary. Thanks

Dr Ailsa Wight  
Head of Programme  
General Health Protection  
524 Wellington House  
133/155 Waterloo Road  
London  
SE1 8UG

**GRO-C**

----- Forwarded by Ailsa Wight/PH6/DOH/GB on 13/09/2006 15:39 -----

**William Connon**

13/09/2006 13:57

To: Rowena  
Jecock/PH6/DOH/GB@GRO-C Neil  
Ebenezer/PH5/DOH/GB@GRO-C Zubeda  
Seedat/PH6/DOH/GB@GRO-C  
cc: Ailsa  
Wight/PH6/DOH/GB@GRO-C Gerard  
Hetherington/HPIHSD/DOH/GB@GRO-C Elizabeth  
Woodeson/CQEG/DOH/GB@GRO-C  
bcc:  
Subject: FW: Freedom of  
Information request - Davis (John Connors Press Agency) 89054

Any thoughts on this FOI request for NHSBT.

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

GRO-C

----- Forwarded by William Connon/PD-PMD/DOH/GB on 13/09/2006 13:55 -----

chris.hartley@GRO-C

GRO-C

13/09/2006 13:26

PMD/DOH/GB@GRO-C

To: William Connon/PD-

cc:

bcc:

Subject: FW: Freedom of

Information request - Davis (John Connors Press Agency) 89054

William,

I wouldn't normally alert you to such FOI requests, but as this one has come from a press agency called 'John Connors Press Agency'. Rakesh (who leads our media relations) has alerted DH press office. The FOI request was:

1.. Could you please provide us of a transcript of the minutes of the meeting of the CJD Incidence Panel [a Department of Health risk assessment committee] in 2000 where it was decided not to tell recipients of infected blood that the donor had died with symptoms of variant CJD, and they may be at risk from the fatal infection.

2.. Please provide copies of any other records you may hold relating to the decision NOT to tell recipients that blood they had been given was infected with vCJD.'

We have not finalised our response to this request yet, but it will be along the lines that Dr Hewitt talks about in her email below. As you can see we will almost be certainly referring to a letter from the Deputy CMO. The press agency must be interested following the recent coroners inquest into someone who died of vCJD>

Chris

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

From: Hewitt Patricia

Sent: 12 September 2006 14:18

To: Thapar Narinder

Cc: Lord Tarquin (BPL); Williamson Lorna; Glover Pam (BPL); Martin Jane (BPL); Braithwaite Renee; Vasishtha Rakesh; Darren.Hughes@GRO-C

Subject: RE: Freedom of Information request - Davis (John Connors Press Agency) 89054

Dear Narinder

This, I am afraid to say, is in my court.

I believe that for the first part of the request, it is appropriate to refer the requestor to the CJD Incident Panel?

For the second part of the request, the decision was not made by the NBS. The advice that there was no need to inform recipients who had been transfused with blood from a donor who later developed vCJD (note: the question asks about "blood they had been given was infected with vCJD", but we have no means of telling whether any blood is infected with vCJD) was given in a letter from the Deputy Chief Medical Officer in 1998: PL (CO) (98) 1. I attach a copy of that letter.

I have numerous documents relating to the decision, in the context that the NBS liaised with the Clinical Incident Panel, after the Incident Panel was formed, and there were many discussions at the Panel and within the NBS. Furthermore, when the Incident Panel advised that recipients should be informed, and DH accepted that advice, NBS was involved in the notification procedure. That could all be taken as "relating to the decision", but I believe that the requester is asking for information about the decision NOT to inform, and the NBS had no part in that decision, so I am interpreting this as meaning that none of my later papers are relevant to the specific request. I am sure that BPL will have a similar issue.

As the request relates to advice given by DH, and is from a Press Agency, I believe that it would be appropriate to alert both DH and Corporate Comms to this request. I have therefore copied my reply to Rakesh and to DH.

Regards

Pat

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

From: Thapar Narinder

Sent: 12 September 2006 12:27

To: Glover Pam (BPL); Martin Jane (BPL); Braithwaite Renee; Hewitt Patricia; Williamson Lorna

Cc: Lord Tarquin (BPL); Hewitt Patricia & PA

Subject: Freedom of Information request - Davis (John Connors Press Agency) 89054

Importance: High

Good afternoon,

We have received the following Freedom of Information request (see below). With your background knowledge of the NBS, I hope you can help me to locate the information requested or point me in the right direction.

It is important that we respond within the legal timescale as required by the FOI Act.

Your help is appreciated and I look forward to hearing from you.

P.S. - FOI guidelines for request handling attached for your information.

kind regards,

Narinder

' 1.. Could you please provide us of a transcript of the minutes of the meeting of the CJD Incidence Panel [a Department of Health risk assessment committee] in 2000 where it was decided not to tell recipients of infected blood that the donor had died with symptoms of variant CJD, and they may be at risk from the fatal infection.

2.. Please provide copies of any other records you may hold relating to the decision NOT to tell recipients that blood they had been given was infected with vCJD.'

Mr. Narinder K. Thapar, BA(Hons)

Freedom of Information Manager

National Blood Service

Email: narinder.thapar@GRO-C

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Last modified in mailfile: **14/09/2006 12:35**)