

**John Cash**

**From:** "John Cash" <cash3436@GRO-C>  
**To:** "Neil Billing" <neilbilling@GRO-C>  
**Sent:** 06 December 2009 19:42  
**Subject:** Fw: Document Destruction

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

**From:** [John Cash](#)  
**To:** [John Cash](#)  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 06, 2009 6:52 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Document Destruction

Neil

Rain check.

The meeting I referred to was not in 1989 but 1988 and was on 6th September.

Tell Susan it is possible that the CLO representative at this important meeting was John Griffiths - who later got David MacIntosh 'out of jail'!

I'm minded to ask whether your Power Retrieve comes up with a Minute of this SHHD meeting?

John

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

**From:** [John Cash](#)  
**To:** [Neil Billing](#)  
**Cc:** [Ruthven Mitchell](#); [Archie Barr](#); [Ian Franklin](#)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 02, 2009 12:33 PM  
**Subject:** Fw: Document Destruction

Neil

Thanks for message.

Oh dear, the news of your exploration of document destruction sounds distressing. I am sorry. I find all this business particularly upsetting because as the former GM of the CSA (Jim Donald) will confirm, in 1989 a meeting was convened by SHHD officials (including CLO lawyers) on the topic of potential litigation for the transmission of HIV. The meeting was fascinating and it came as no surprise to Jim and I that despite our subsequent efforts no Minute/Notes of the meeting were ever issued to us! Among the issues we do recall, however, is that 'the word went out' that there should be no destruction of operational documents by the CSA or the SNBTS. It is my understanding the Jim ensured this edict was out into action within the CSA and he currently claims that when he left the documents were secure. It was never clear to us whether this edict included SHHD - or indeed the CLO!

Are you in a position to advise me who is currently on the list for interviews by your good self, Susan and Tracey?

Are you clear what was recovered from the WBTS and where these documents are now? Archie, Ruthven and myself are keen to seek out material, particularly that related to Archie's Team's work on microbiological kit evaluation and donation testing - which goes back to the late 1970s through to the early 1990s. Their work covers the UK evaluations but particularly important are the studies done by the WBTS for the SNBTS.

Finally, Ian Franklin has twice advised me that there are microfiches demonstrating that the WBTS commenced full scale routine HCV donation testing many months in advance of the official start date. Archie, Ruthven and I are very anxious to have sight of these documents. Could we get access via Derek Randin?

John

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

**From:** [Billing Neil \(NHS National Services Scotland\)](#)  
**To:** [John Cash](#)  
**Cc:** [Franklin Ian \(NHS National Services Scotland\)](#); [Murray Susan \(NHS National Services Scotland\)](#); [Turnbull Tracey \(NHS National Services Scotland\)](#)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 02, 2009 9:04 AM  
**Subject:** RE: Meeting with Archie Barr

Morning John - it's excellent that you have access to the combined memories of that time - as you say, should be very helpful.

When we were touring Regional Centres to round up information for the Documentation Account for the Penrose Team, it became clear that there were some issues in Glasgow re the transfer of documents from Law to Gartnavel. Several folks told us that, before the move, they were warned that there was no storage space at Gartnavel and that, therefore, they should severely cull the documents which were being transferred.

As you know, there have been various incidences of document destruction within SNBTS and Keith is keen that these are fully examined and a report drawn up. (We are aware that Lord Penrose will be asking specifically about this.) Susan Murray and Tracey Turnbull of the CLO and I are currently undertaking a series of interviews of appropriate staff to produce said report.

Not good news I fear, however we will know more after speaking more fully to the Glasgow folks

regards

Neil

**From:** John Cash [cash3436@GRO-C]  
**Sent:** 01 December 2009 17:28  
**To:** Billing Neil (NHS National Services Scotland)  
**Cc:** Franklin Ian (NHS National Services Scotland); PETER FOSTER; Archie Barr; Ruthven Mitchell

07/12/2009

**Subject:** Meeting with Archie Barr

Neil

Thought you should know that I have just spent a wonderful afternoon with Archie Barr and Ruthven Mitchell wandering down memory lane and laughing about good times a long time ago! I have no doubt contact with Archie, and indeed Ruthven, will prove to be of considerable value when I get down to creating my Narrative. Archie confirmed he would be delighted to help in any way he could.

You may not be aware that it was Archie who led the technical team which made the SNBTS contribution to microbiological donation testing kit evaluations, both at the UK level and within the SNBTS. I was delighted to learn that Brian Dow is in close contact with Mr. Barr.

I'm minded to ask whether the WBTS documents/correspondence which were generated at the Law Centre are in safe hands? Ruthven has an image of wandering around the derelict Law Centre and seeing considerable amounts of paper on many floors. Are his recollections correct? If so who managed the move to the new Centre in Gartnavel and when?

John

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07/12/2009