



**"Re: Contamination of NHS blood and blood products - Lord Archer's report publishing 23 February"**

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Rowena  
Jecock/PH6/DOH/GB  
20/02/2009 13:36

To "Ms. Sylvia Shearer" <sylvia.shearer@GRO-C>  
cc Patrick Hennessy/POLICY/DOH/GB@GRO-C  
penelope.iring@GRO-C judith.moore@GRO-C  
bcc

Subject Re: Contamination of NHS blood and blood products - Lord Archer's report publishing 23 February

Sylvia,  
Very happy to do so.

We are agreeing our lines this pm, and Patrick will copy to you, and to colleagues in Wales and NI.

My preference is not to be bounced into commenting on any recommendations that Lord Archer makes until we have had a chance to look at them carefully. The media 'noise' will make this difficult, but I believe it would be the best approach. If we start commenting on one aspect, it will be very difficult not to get drawn in on other things.

Rowena

Message sent from a Blackberry handheld device.

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

From: [Sylvia.Shearer@GRO-C]  
Sent: 20/02/2009 13:24  
To: Penelope Irving/OIS/DOH@GRO-C  
Cc: Patrick Hennessy/POLICY/DOH/GB@GRO-C; Rowena Jecock/PH6/DOH/GB@GRO-C  
Subject: RE: Contamination of NHS blood and blood products - Lord Archer's report publishing 23 February

Penelope/Patrick

It would be really helpful if you could share your thoughts with us around any initial response. I don't suppose there is any way we can get sight of it? The patient groups are very active up here with the media. There is to be a news article on Monday around the Penrose Inquiry's powers and they will no doubt refer to recommendations from Archer.

Sylvia

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

From: Penelope.Irving@GRO-C  
[mailto:Penelope.Irving@GRO-C]  
Sent: 20 February 2009 12:53  
To: Patrick.Hennessy@GRO-C  
Cc: Ailsa.Wight@GRO-C; Aimee.Gasston@GRO-C  
Beatrix.Sneller@GRO-C; caroline.lewis@GRO-C  
Clare.Montagu@GRO-C; Colin.Phillips@GRO-C  
David.Harper@GRO-C; Elizabeth.Woodeson@GRO-C  
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Jo.Revill@GRO-C; Judith.Moore@GRO-C  
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(Michelle); Morven.Smith@GRO-C; Murray.Devine@GRO-C  
MacLeod N (Neil); Rowena.Jecock@GRO-C  
Sarah.Kirby@GRO-C; shaun.gallagher@GRO-C  
Steven.Pidgeon@GRO-C; Shearer S (Sylvia)  
Subject: Re: Contamination of NHS blood and blood products - Lord Archer's report publishing 23 February

Patrick,

I have just been informed that a copy of the report will be biked over for  
SoS this afternoon. If you are in agreement it would be helpful I think for you to see this document this afternoon so that you can advise press office with appropriate lines on Monday morning, although obviously those lines should still reflect the fact that we won't have had the time to consider the report fully as we would want to before we make a full response.

I will call when I have received the report to arrange to get it to you.

Thanks

Penelope

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Penelope Irving  
APS/Secretary of State for Health  
GRO-C

The Secretary of State's box closes at 2pm Monday-Thursday and 12noon on Friday

Patrick

Hennessy/POLICY/D

OH/GB

To

19/02/2009 18:17

cc

Morven Smith/POLICY/DOH/GB@GRO-C

Sarah Kirby/OIS/DOH@GRO-C Penelope

Irving/OIS/DOH@GRO-C Marc

McGonagle/OIS/DOH@GRO-C Clare

Montagu/OIS/DOH@GRO-C Mario

Dunn/OIS/DOH@GRO-C Aimee

Gasston/POLICY/DOH/GB@GRO-C Steven

Pidgeon/OIS/DOH@GRO-C Beatrix

Sneller/OIS/DOH@GRO-C David

Harper/HPIHSD/DOH/GB@GRO-C

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Woodeson/CQEG/DOH/GB@GRO-C Ailsa

Wight/PH6/DOH/GB@GRO-C Rowena

Jecock/PH6/DOH/GB@GRO-C Colin

Phillips/CQEG-IIU/DOH/GB@GRO-C

Murray Devine/OIS/DOH@GRO-C Jo

Revill/OIS/DOH@GRO-C Kate

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Subject  
Contamination of NHS blood and

blood products - Lord Archer's  
report publishing 23 February

Morven

We spoke. Lord Archer has given notice this afternoon that he will be publishing his independent report on contamination of NHS blood and blood products in the 1970s and 1980s on Monday 23 February. There will be a press conference at Westminster Hall on Monday at 10.30am. I attach Lord Archer's press notice for reference. We will not be sending an official to the PC.

We will circulate lines to take tomorrow morning. We have not seen the report, and the main line will be that we need to study his report in detail, and will consider a response in the light of the public inquiry now under way in Scotland under Lord Penrose. We should only respond in the short term if absolutely necessary, e.g., to correct a gross factual error, or to rebut any accusation of bad faith by DH. (We have no indication at all that Lord Archer intends any such accusation, but some campaigners accuse DH of a cover-up.)

Patrick

(See attached file: 73\_Press Conference.doc)

Patrick Hennessy  
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Health Protection Division  
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Tel: GRO-C  
GTN:

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