

**"Re: URGENT - holding line for the weekend"**

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Patrick  
Hennessy/POLICY/DOH/GB  
20/02/2009 17:14

To Peter Graham/COMMS/DOH/GB **GRO-C**  
cc Judith Moore/OIS/DOH **GRO-C** Kate Pike/OIS/DOH **GRO-C**  
Morven Smith/POLICY/DOH/GB **GRO-C** Ian Matthews/PR-  
OFF/DOH/GB **GRO-C**

bcc

Subject Re: URGENT - holding line for the  
weekend 199ED67461340E4180257563005CCEBC

Peter - That is fine. Key point is that the report is not published until Monday at 10.30am, and we were not given an advance copy for review. - Patrick

Patrick Hennessy  
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Peter Graham/COMMS/DOH/GB

Peter  
Graham/COMMS/DOH/GB  
20/02/2009 17:04

To Patrick Hennessy/POLICY/DOH/GB **GRO-C**  
cc Judith Moore/OIS/DOH **GRO-C** Kate  
Pike/OIS/DOH **GRO-C** Morven  
Smith/POLICY/DOH/GB **GRO-C**  
Subject URGENT - holding line for the weekend

Hi Patrick

As discussed, please can you clear the below statement for over the weekend - clear that we have not yet seen the report.

DH spokesperson:

"We have great sympathy for the patients and families affected by contaminated blood products in the 1970s and 1980s, and will study the findings of Lord Archer's report in detail when we receive it.

"Every reasonable step to minimise risks from blood transfusion has been taken, and robust screening measures are in place to protect patients."

"This Government has gone further than any other administration in making information available, which has included meeting with Lord Archer and cooperating with the inquiry where possible.

On the documents, if asked:

Only 35 of the 4,500 documents released to the Archer enquiry so far have been withheld in full or in part – less than one per cent. The majority of these were withheld because they contain personal information, legal advice or on health and safety grounds.

Thanks,

Peter

Peter Graham

Senior Press Officer - Public Health Desk | Department of Health

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