



"FOI DE393029 - BBC Request, Documents on Participating with the Archer Inquiry"

Document Type:	Formal
File Title:	GHP - Blood Policy - Blood : General - Freedom of Information (FOI) Cases - FOI DE393029 - BBC Request, Documents on Participating with the Archer Inquiry
File Reference:	GHP/005/001/021/003
Protective Marking:	No Marking
Filed by:	Laura Kennedy/OIS/DOH on 25/03/2009 at 15:59
Created by:	Rowena Jecock on 16/03/2009 at 13:51

Named Security Prior To Moving To Archive:

Who can edit?	Nobody
Who has edited?	Laura Kennedy/OIS/DOH
Who can read?	All readers of the document database

Modification History Prior To Moving To Archive:

Modified Date and Time	Details
18/08/2009 15:06	Modified registered file

Rowena
Jecock/PH6/DOH/GB
16/03/2009 13:57

To Laura Kennedy/OIS/DOH@GRO-C
cc
bcc
Subject FOI DE393029 - BBC Request, Documents on Participating with the Archer Inquiry

Laura - these are the 2 batches of docs to be redacted.

----- Forwarded by Rowena Jecock/PH6/DOH/GB on 16/03/2009 13:50 -----

Ian Matthews/PR-
OFF/DOH/GB
12/03/2009 15:10

To Aimee Gasston/POLICY/DOH/GB@GRO-C
cc Rowena Jecock/PH6/DOH/GB@GRO-C
Subject FOI Documents - Advice on Archer Inquiry - Batch 1

Hi Aimee, please find attached the first lot of email from MEDS; I wasn't aiming to do it in two hits, but due to the masses of documents saved on the Archer file, we have had to open several volumes. These are from the first, the rest are from volume 2, which will be with you shortly.

Many thanks for your help with this. Happy to discuss if necessary.

Ian

Ian Matthews
Policy Officer
Infectious Diseases and Blood Policy Team
Room 530
Wellington House
GRO-C

----- Forwarded by Ian Matthews/PR-OFF/DOH/GB on 12/03/2009 15:08 -----

HPIH&SD-HP-GHP Documents - Unformatted Document



"Lord Archer.Inquiry: draft reply to Lord Archer"

File Title:

GHP - Treatment - Haemophilia - Independent Public Enquiry into the supply of contaminated NHS Blood & Blood products

File Reference:

GHP/005/006/030

Protective Marking:

Filed by: **Zubeda Seedat/PH6/DOH/GB on 27/03/2007 at 10:49**

Created by: **William Connon/PD-PMD/DOH/GB on 26/03/2007 at 17:01**

Named Security:

Who can edit? **Nobody**

Who has edited? **Zubeda Seedat/PH6/DOH/GB**

Who can read?

Modification History:

22/01/2009 12:07 (Konrad Borowski) - Modified registered file

William Connon
26/03/2007 17:01

To: Jacky Buchan/PR-
cc: Richard Kelly/PR-
OFF/DOH/GB@**GRO-C** David Harper/HPIHSD/DOH/GB@**GRO-C**
Mike De Silva/HPIHSD/DOH/GB@**GRO-C** Rebecca
Lloyd/ICB/DOH/GB@**GRO-C** Lindsey
Davies/HPIHSD/DOH/GB@**GRO-C** Jonathan Stopes-Roe/HP-
SL/DOH/GB@**GRO-C** Ailsa Wright/PH6/DOH/GB@**GRO-C** Zubeda
Seedat/PH6/DOH/GB@**GRO-C** "Rahulan Shibani LSPG SOL C4"
<Shibani.Rahulan@**GRO-C**> Colin Phillips/CQEG-

IIU/DOH/GB@GRO-C "Evans Mike LSPG SOL C7"
<Mike.Evans1@GRO-C> Gregory Hartwell/PR-
OFF/DOH/GB@GRO-C; Elizabeth
Woodeson/CQEG/DOH/GB@GRO-C

bcc:
Subject: Lord Archer.Inquiry:

draft reply to Lord Archer



RESTRICTED - Policy

Jacky,

I have just spoken to Liz and gone over the changes suggested by Solicitors. Liz is content for the attached note and draft letter to go to the minister asap.

Thanks

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

GRO-C



- Lord Archer.Inquiry 3..doc

----- Forwarded by Ian Matthews/PR-OFF/DOH/GB on 12/03/2009 15:08 -----

HPIH&SD-HP-GHP Documents - Unformatted Document



"Re: Lord Archer.Inquiry: draft reply to Lord Archer"

File Title:

GHP - Treatment - Haemophilia - Independent Public Enquiry into the supply of contaminated NHS Blood & Blood products

File Reference:

GHP/005/006/030

Protective Marking:

Filed by: **Zubeda Seedat/PH6/DOH/GB on 27/03/2007 at 10:50**

Created by: **William Connon/PD-PMD/DOH/GB on 27/03/2007 at 10:04**

Named Security:

Who can edit? **Nobody**

DHSC6698133_0003

Who has edited? Zubeda Seedat/PH6/DOH/GB

Who can read?

Modification History:

22/01/2009 12:07 (Konrad Borowski) - Modified registered file

William Connon

27/03/2007 10:04

To: Jacky Buchan/PR-

OFF/DOH/GB@GRO-C

cc: Ailsa

Wight/PH6/DOH/GB@GRO-C; Colin Phillips/CQEG-
IIU/DOH/GB@GRO-C; David Harper/HPIHSD/DOH/GB@GRO-C
Elizabeth Woodeson/CQEG/DOH/GB@GRO-C; Gregory
Hartwell/PR-OFF/DOH/GB@GRO-C; Jacky Buchan/PR-
OFF/DOH/GB@GRO-C; Jonathan Stopes-Roe/HP-
SL/DOH/GB@GRO-C; Lindsey Davies/HPIHSD/DOH/GB@GRO-C
Mike De Silva/HPIHSD/DOH/GB@GRO-C; Evans Mike LSPG SOL
C7" <Mike.Evans1@GRO-C> Rebecca
Lloyd/ICB/DOH/GB@GRO-C; Richard Kelly/PR-
OFF/DOH/GB@GRO-C; Rahulan Shibani LSPG SOL C4"
<Shibani.Rahulan@GRO-C> Zubeda
Seedat/PH6/DOH/GB@GRO-C

bcc:

Subject: Re: Lord

Archer.Inquiry: draft reply to Lord Archer



RESTRICTED - Policy

Jacky,

Sorry to come back again on this but I have received a couple of comments on the advice in the submission and draft letter, regarding the appropriateness of offering to meet Lord Archer's team.

I included in my submission the fact that Sol have advised against meeting with the review team for the reasons outlined. This remains Sol's advice. However, given that SofS has indicated that she wishes the department to be as cooperative as possible, and suggested that we do offer to meet, I decided to leave this in the draft reply. You will see that I have modified the offer of a meeting to make it clear that we will only meet to discuss timing of our impending report and to clarify the precise extent of DH involvement, which will be very limited.

I hope this clarifies the position for MS(PH).

William G Connon

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

GRO-C

William Connon

William Connon
26/03/2007 17:01

To: Jacky
Buchan/PR-OFF/DOH/GB@GRO-C
cc: Richard
Kelly/PR-OFF/DOH/GB@GRO-C David
Harper/HPIHSD/DOH/GB@GRO-C Mike De
Silva/HPIHSD/DOH/GB@GRO-C Rebecca
Lloyd/ICB/DOH/GB@GRO-C Lindsey
Davies/HPIHSD/DOH/GB@GRO-C Jonathan Stopes-Roe/HP-
SL/DOH/GB@GRO-C Ailsa Wight/PH6/DOH/GB@GRO-C Zubeda
Seedat/PH6/DOH/GB@GRO-C "Rahulan Shibani LSPG SOL C4"
<Shibani.Rahulan@GRO-C> Colin Phillips/CQEG-
IIU/DOH/GB@GRO-C "Evans Mike LSPG SOL C7"
<Mike.Evans1@GRO-C> Gregory Hartwell/PR-
OFF/DOH/GB@GRO-C Elizabeth
Woodeson/CQEG/DOH/GB@GRO-C
bcc: Lord
Subject: Lord
Archer.Inquiry: draft reply to Lord Archer



RESTRICTED - Policy

Jacky,

I have just spoken to Liz and gone over the changes suggested by Solicitors. Liz is content for the attached note and draft letter to go to the minister asap.

Thanks

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

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<< Attachment Removed : Lord Archer.Inquiry 3..doc >>

DHSC6698133_0005

----- Forwarded by Ian Matthews/PR-OFF/DOH/GB on 12/03/2009 15:08 -----

HPIH&SD-HP-GHP Documents - Unformatted Document



"Re: Lord Archer.Inquiry: draft reply to Lord Archer"

File Title:

GHP - Treatment - Haemophilia - Independent Public Enquiry into the supply of contaminated NHS Blood & Blood products

File Reference:

GHP/005/006/030

Protective Marking:

Filed by: **William Connon/PD-PMD/DOH/GB on 28/03/2007 at 13:05**

Created by: **Jonathan Stopes-Roe/HP-SL/DOH/GB on 27/03/2007 at 09:53**

Named Security:

Who can edit? **Nobody**

Who has edited? **William Connon/PD-PMD/DOH/GB**

Who can read?

Modification History:

22/01/2009 12:07 (Konrad Borowski) - Modified registered file

Jonathan Stopes-Roe

27/03/2007 09:53

PMD/DOH/GB@GRO-C

To: William Connon/PD-

cc: Ailsa

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

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

Seedat/PH6/DOH/GB@GRO-C

bcc:

Subject: Re: Lord

Archer.Inquiry: draft reply to Lord Archer

William

The advice says Sol are against any meeting, yet the draft letter offers a meeting (and hints at "departmental involvement"). May this confuse MS(PH)?

Jonathan Stopes-Roe

Head of Strategy & Legislation
Health Protection Division
Department of Health
Wellington House

GRO-C

----- Forwarded by Ian Matthews/PR-OFF/DOH/GB on 12/03/2009 15:08 -----

HPIH&SD-HP-GHP Documents - Unformatted Document



"Lord Archer Letter to SofS - Draft Reply"

File Title:

GHP - Treatment - Haemophilia - Independent Public Enquiry into the supply of contaminated NHS Blood & Blood products

File Reference:

GHP/005/006/030

Protective Marking:

Filed by: **William Connon/PD-PMD/DOH/GB on 09/05/2007 at 16:28**

Created by: **William Connon/PD-PMD/DOH/GB on 26/03/2007 at 10:14**

Named Security:

Who can edit? **Nobody**

Who has edited? **William Connon/PD-PMD/DOH/GB**

Who can read?

Modification History:

22/01/2009 12:07 (Konrad Borowski) - Modified registered file

William Connon
26/03/2007 10:14

C7" <Vicky.Fox@**GRO-C**

To: "Fox Vicky LSPG SOL

cc:

bcc:

Subject: Lord Archer Letter

to SofS - Draft Reply

As discussed.

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 26/03/2007 10:13 -----

HSCS&Q-HPIH&SD-HP-GHP Documents - Unformatted Document



"Lord Archer Letter to SofS - Draft Reply"

File Title:

GHP - Treatment - Haemophilia - Independent Public Enquiry into the supply of contaminated NHS Blood & Blood products

File Reference:

GHP/005/006/030

Protective Marking:

Filed by: **Zubeda Seedat/PH6/DOH/GB on 27/02/2007 at 16:49**

Created by: **William Connon/PD-PMD/DOH/GB on 21/02/2007 at 12:14**

Named Security:

Administrators can modify document readers from the associated registered file in the LFR

Who can edit?	Nobody	
Who has edited?	Zubeda Seedat/PH6/DOH/GB	
Who can read?	All readers of the document database	Take default from Registered File
	All readers of the document database	

William Connon
21/02/2007 12:14

OFF/DOH/GB@**GRO-C**

To: Jacky Buchan/PR-

cc: Ailsa

Wight/PH6/DOH/GB@**GRO-C**; Zubeda

Seedat/PH6/DOH/GB@**GRO-C**; Linda Page/SSU/DOH/GB@**GRO-C**

Mike De Silva/HPIHSD/DOH/GB@GRO-C Gregory Hartwell/PR-OFF/DOH/GB@GRO-C Jonathan Stopes-Roe/HP-SL/DOH/GB@GRO-C Lindsey Davies/HPIHSD/DOH/GB@GRO-C Hugh Nicholas/PH6/DOH/GB@GRO-C Richard Kelly/PR-OFF/DOH/GB@GRO-C Karen.Arnold1@GRO-C Caroline.Lewis@GRO-C <Aileen.Keel@GRO-C <John.Brunton@GRO-C Andrew.Macleod@GRO-C Sylvia.Shearer@GRO-C Bushria Shafi/COMMS/DOH/GB@GRO-C Michelle Lucas/PR-OFF/DOH/GB, Elizabeth Woode

bcc:
Subject: Lord Archer Letter

to SofS - Draft Reply



RESTRICTED - Policy

Jacky,

As requested, I attach a draft letter for MS(PH) to send to Lord Archer following his letter to SofS regarding his inquiry. You asked for this by lunchtime today, hence this email cover note, rather than a formal submission.

The advice is that we should not become involved in Lord Archer's Inquiry at all. The attached draft, which has been cleared by Perm Sec and Sol, takes a fairly robust line.

Please see the final bullet concerning the need for a reply to Douglas Alexander. I have not seen Lord Archer's letter to Douglas Alexander but have suggested that he simply forward a copy of our letter with a brief cover note.

As I explained yesterday, we have very little information about the exact nature of the inquiry. I am concerned that if we enter into a dialogue about the details with either Lord Archer or the Haemophilia Society (HS) then we will simply become implicated in the inquiry, by association. I have therefore decided not to do this.

The main points are:

- It is recommended that no DH officials appear before this informal inquiry
- The Inquiry is being launched by Lords Archer, Morris and Turnburg.
- I am told that the inquiry is not directly linked to the Haemophilia Society, although Lord Morris is the President of the Society.
- I have no specific information about the terms of reference, location, funding or what form exactly the inquiry will take.
- I would not advise that we make any contact with those launching the inquiry to request further details.
- The draft does offer to provide Lord Archer with a copy of the report currently being compiled on all the documentation available to DH. You will be receiving a submission on this in the next few weeks. The report should be ready by the end of March

- I will continue to monitor the situation and keep everyone fully informed of any developments.
- I am copying this to the DA's for information, as I believe they will be taking a similar line.
- I am also copying this to Bushira Shafi and Michelle Lucas so that this reply can also be sent to Douglas Alexander, who has received a similar letter.

Happy to discuss

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

GRO-C



- IVIG.2.doc

----- Forwarded by Ian Matthews/PR-OFF/DOH/GB on 12/03/2009 15:08 -----

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"Lord Archer Inquiry"

File Title:

GHP - Treatment - Haemophilia - Independent Public Enquiry into the supply of contaminated NHS Blood & Blood products

File Reference:

GHP/005/006/030

Protective Marking:

Filed by: **William Connon/PD-PMD/DOH/GB on 09/05/2007 at 16:29**

Created by: **Gregory Hartwell/PR-OFF/DOH/GB on 28/03/2007 at 11:42**

Named Security:

Who can edit?	Nobody
Who has edited?	William Connon/PD-PMD/DOH/GB
Who can read?	

Modification History:

22/01/2009 12:07 (Konrad Borowski) - Modified registered file

Gregory Hartwell

28/03/2007 11:42

PMD/DOH/GB@GRO-C Elizabeth
Woodeson/CQEG/DOH/GB@GRO-C
Shibani.Rahulan@GRO-C

To: William Connon/PD-

cc:

bcc:

Subject: Lord Archer Inquiry

Dear all,

Many thanks for your help with this yesterday.

Greg

Greg Hartwell

Assistant Private Secretary to Hugh Taylor

Department of Health Permanent Secretary

Tel = GRO-C

----- Forwarded by Gregory Hartwell/PR-OFF/DOH/GB on 28/03/2007 11:41 -----

Gregory Hartwell

28/03/2007 11:40

OFF/DOH/GB@GRO-C

To: Jacky Buchan/PR-

cc: "Rahulan Shibani LSPG

SOL C4" <Shibani.Rahulan@GRO-C> Ailsa
Wight/PH6/DOH/GB@GRO-C Colin Phillips/CQEG-
IIU/DOH/GB@GRO-C David Harper/HPIHSD/DOH/GB@GRO-C
Elizabeth Woodeson/CQEG/DOH/GB@GRO-C Gregory
Hartwell/PR-OFF/DOH/GB@GRO-C Jonathan Stopes-Roe/HP-
SL/DOH/GB@GRO-C Lindsey Davies/HPIHSD/DOH/GB@GRO-C
Mike De Silva/HPIHSD/DOH/GB@GRO-C "Evans Mike LSPG SOL
C7" <Mike.Evans1@GRO-C> Rebecca
Lloyd/ICB/DOH/GB@GRO-C Richard Kelly/PR-
OFF/DOH/GB@GRO-C Zubeda Seedat/PH6/DOH/GB@GRO-C
William Connon/PD-PMD/DOH/GB@GRO-C Dani Lee/PR-
OFF/DOH/GB@GRO-C

bcc:

Subject: Lord Archer Inquiry

Jacky,

As discussed yesterday, we held this back until Hugh had had a chance to agree a few further changes with officials.

Attached submission has now been agreed by Hugh, Liz, William and Shibani Rahulan (Sol).

Thanks,

Greg



Lord Archer Inquiry (28.03.07).doc

Greg Hartwell
Assistant Private Secretary to Hugh Taylor
Department of Health Permanent Secretary
Tel = **GRO-C**

----- Forwarded by Ian Matthews/PR-OFF/DOH/GB on 12/03/2009 15:08 -----

HPIH&SD-HP-GHP Documents - Unformatted Document



"Re: Letter from Secretary to the contaminated blood Inquiry"

File Title:	GHP - Treatment - Haemophilia - Independent Public Enquiry into the supply of contaminated NHS Blood & Blood products
File Reference:	GHP/005/006/030
Protective Marking:	
Filed by:	William Connon/PD-PMD/DOH/GB on 09/05/2007 at 16:31
Created by:	William Connon/PD-PMD/DOH/GB on 16/04/2007 at 09:41

Named Security:

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Who has edited?	William Connon/PD-PMD/DOH/GB
Who can read?	

Modification History:

22/01/2009 12:07 (Konrad Borowski) - Modified registered file

William Connon

16/04/2007 09:41

Roe/HP-SL/DOH/GB

To: Jonathan Stopes-

cc:

bcc:

Subject: Re: Letter from
Secretary to the contaminated blood Inquiry

Jonathan.

No, it is the SofS letter to Lord Archer offering a meeting with officials. Happy to forward it if you wish to see it.

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

GRO-C

----- Forwarded by Ian Matthews/PR-OFF/DOH/GB on 12/03/2009 15:08 -----

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"Re: Letter from Secretary to the contaminated blood Inquiry"

File Title:

GHP - Treatment - Haemophilia - Independent Public Enquiry into the supply of contaminated NHS Blood & Blood products

File Reference:

GHP/005/006/030

Protective Marking:

Filed by: **William Connon/PD-PMD/DOH/GB on 09/05/2007 at 16:30**

Created by: **William Connon/PD-PMD/DOH/GB on 16/04/2007 at 08:26**

Named Security:

Who can edit? **Nobody**

Who has edited? **William Connon/PD-PMD/DOH/GB**

Who can read?

Modification History:

William Connon
16/04/2007 08:26

To: Elizabeth
cc: Gregory Hartwell/PR-OFF/DOH/GB@GRO-C; Helen Hampton/COMMS/DOH/GB@GRO-C; Jacky Buchan/PR-OFF/DOH/GB@GRO-C; Rebecca Lloyd/ICB/DOH/GB@GRO-C; Richard Kelly/PR-OFF/DOH/GB@GRO-C; David Harper/HPIHSD/DOH/GB@GRO-C; Mike De Silva/HPIHSD/DOH/GB@GRO-C; Lindsey Davies/HPIHSD/DOH/GB@GRO-C; Jonathan Stopes-Roe/HP-SL/DOH/GB@GRO-C; Ailsa Wight/PH6/DOH/GB@GRO-C; Zubeda Seedat/PH6/DOH/GB@GRO-C; "Rahulan Shibani LSPG SOL C4" <Shibani.Rahulan@GRO-C>; Colin Phillips/CQEG-IIU/DOH/GB@GRO-C; "Evans Mike LSPG SOL C7" <Mike.Evans1@GRO-C>; Gregory Hartwell/PR-OFF/DOH/GB@GRO-C; Hugh Nicholas/PH6/DOH/GB@GRO-C; Linda Page/SSU/DOH/GB@GRO-C
bcc:
Subject: Re: Letter from Secretary to the contaminated blood Inquiry



RESTRICTED - Policy

Liz,

Please see attached request from Lord Archer's team for a meeting with officials. I would appreciate your advice, and that of others, as to who we should field for this meeting. We will need to have a representative from Sol and also perhaps someone from Colin's team to advise on investigations. I am keen that we should be properly represented however I do not want to appear to be overly defensive by having too many people at the meeting.

I would appreciate a word with you before contacting Mr Mehan.

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

GRO-C

Dani Lee

Dani Lee

12/04/2007 16:09

To: William
Connon/PD-PMD/DOH/GB@GRO-C
cc: Jacky
Buchan/PR-OFF/DOH/GB@GRO-C; Gregory Hartwell/PR-
OFF/DOH/GB@GRO-C; Rebecca Lloyd/ICB/DOH/GB@GRO-C
Helen Hampton/COMMS/DOH/GB@GRO-C
bcc:
Subject: Letter from
Secretary to the contaminated blood Inquiry

William,

Please see email we have received from the Inquiry below. I'd be grateful if you could make contact to organise a date to meet. Please could you keep Ministers and Press Office informed.

Thanks
Dani

Dani Lee

APS/SofS
GRO-C

----- Forwarded by Dani Lee/PR-OFF/DOH/GB on 12/04/2007 15:51 -----

Christopher Juliff

12/04/2007 15:41

To: Dani Lee/PR-
OFF/DOH/GB@GRO-C
cc:
bcc:
Subject: Diary Secretary
to The Rt Hon Patricia Hewitt MP

Dani, we spoke earlier, can you forward to relevant officials please?

Ta
Christopher Juliff
Diary Secretary to Rt Hon. Patricia Hewitt MP
Secretary of State for Health
Tel GRO-C

----- Forwarded by Christopher Juliff/PR-OFF/DOH/GB on 12/04/2007 15:41 -----

Ronald Le Bruin

12/04/2007 15:31

To: Christopher
Juliff/PR-OFF/DOH/GB@GRO-C
cc:
Subject: Diary Secretary
to The Rt Hon Patricia Hewitt MP

Christopher,

Please see the attached email received by DHMail. My colleague Suzan Lilly contacted you at lunchtime regarding this case.

Best wishes,

Ronald

----- Forwarded by Ronald Le Bruin/PR-OFF/DOH/GB on 12/04/2007 15:29 -----

"Vijay Mehan"

<Vijay.Mehan@GRO-C
GRO-C

To:

DHMail/ISD4/DOH/GB@GRO-C

cc:

12/04/2007 14:36

Subject:
to The Rt Hon Patricia Hewitt MP

Diary Secretary

Dear Sirs

I refer to the attached letter from The Rt Hon Patricia Hewitt MP dated 30th March 2006, which has been passed onto me by The Rt Hon Lord Archer of Sandwell QC, as I am the Secretary to the Independent Public Inquiry into Contaminated Blood and Blood Products.

You will note, the letter asks that we make contact, in order we might arrange an early meeting between your officials.

Might I perhaps respectfully ask that you contact me as soon as possible to set up the said meeting.

I do now look forward to hearing from you.

<<0158_001.tif>>

With kind regards

Vijay Mehan

Secretary to the Independent Public Inquiry

GRO-C

www.archercbbp.com

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Partners K Maguire, M Loftus, M Thomson, D Anderson, A Dobbs, M Evans, R Gibson, A Macdonald, K Pendower, J Reeder, K Tonks
Members K Maguire, M Loftus, M Thomson

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"Letter from Secretary to the contaminated blood Inquiry"

File Title:

GHP - Treatment - Haemophilia - Independent Public Enquiry into the supply of contaminated NHS Blood & Blood products

File Reference:

GHP/005/006/030

Protective Marking:

Filed by: **William Connon/PD-PMD/DOH/GB on 09/05/2007 at 16:31**

Created by: **William Connon/PD-PMD/DOH/GB on 16/04/2007 at 09:42**

Named Security:

Who can edit? **Nobody**

Who has edited? **William Connon/PD-PMD/DOH/GB**

Who can read?

Modification History:

22/01/2009 12:07 (Konrad Borowski) - Modified registered file

William Connon

16/04/2007 09:42

Roe/HP-SL/DOH/GB

To: Jonathan Stopes-

cc:

bcc:

Subject: Letter from
Secretary to the contaminated blood Inquiry

For the record!

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 16/04/2007 09:42 -----

Dani Lee

12/04/2007 16:09

PMD/DOH/GB@**GRO-C**

To: William Connon/PD-

cc: Jacky Buchan/PR-

OFF/DOH/GB@**GRO-C** Gregory Hartwell/PR-OFF/DOH/GB@**GRO-C**

Rebecca Lloyd/CB/DOH/GB@**GRO-C** Helen

Hampton/COMMS/DOH/GB@**GRO-C**

bcc:

Subject: Letter from
Secretary to the contaminated blood Inquiry

William,

Please see email we have received from the Inquiry below. I'd be grateful if you could make contact to organise a date to meet. Please could you keep Ministers and Press Office informed.

Thanks
Dani

Dani Lee
APS/SofS

GRO-C

----- Forwarded by Dani Lee/PR-OFF/DOH/GB on 12/04/2007 15:51 -----

Christopher Juliff

12/04/2007 15:41

OFF/DOH/GB@**GRO-C**

To: Dani Lee/PR-

cc:

bcc:

The Rt Hon Patricia Hewitt MP

Subject: Diary Secretary to

Dani, we spoke earlier, can you forward to relevant officials please?

Ta
Christopher Juliff
Diary Secretary to Rt Hon. Patricia Hewitt MP
Secretary of State for Health
Tel **GRO-C**

----- Forwarded by Christopher Juliff/PR-OFF/DOH/GB on 12/04/2007 15:41 -----

Ronald Le Bruin

12/04/2007 15:31

OFF/DOH/GB@**GRO-C**

To: Christopher Juliff/PR-

cc:

Subject: Diary Secretary to

The Rt Hon Patricia Hewitt MP

Christopher,

Please see the attached email received by DHMail. My colleague Suzan Lilly contacted you at lunchtime regarding this case.

Best wishes,

Ronald

----- Forwarded by Ronald Le Bruin/PR-OFF/DOH/GB on 12/04/2007 15:29 -----

"Vijay Mehan"

<Vijay.Mehan@**GRO-C**

GRO-C

12/04/2007 14:36

DHMail/ISD4/DOH/GB@**GRO-C**

To:

cc:

Subject: Diary Secretary to

The Rt Hon Patricia Hewitt MP

Dear Sirs

I refer to the attached letter from The Rt Hon Patricia Hewitt MP dated 30th March 2006, which has been passed onto me by The Rt Hon Lord Archer of Sandwell QC, as I am the Secretary to the Independent Public Inquiry into Contaminated Blood and Blood Products.

You will note, the letter asks that we make contact, in order we might arrange an early meeting between your officials.

Might I perhaps respectfully ask that you contact me as soon as possible to set up the said meeting.

I do now look forward to hearing from you.

<<0158_001.tif>>

With kind regards

Vijay Mehan

Secretary to the Independent Public Inquiry

GRO-C

www.archercbbp.com

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—

----- Forwarded by Ian Matthews/PR-OFF/DOH/GB on 12/03/2009 15:08 -----

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"RE: Contaminated Blood Independent Public Inquiry"

File Title:

GHP - Treatment - Haemophilia - Independent Public Enquiry into the supply of contaminated NHS Blood & Blood products

File Reference:

GHP/005/006/030 Vol 2

Protective Marking:

Filed by: Patrick Hennessy/POLICY/DOH/GB on 04/12/2007 at 16:03

Created by: William Connon/PD-PMD/DOH/GB on 17/09/2007 at 10:31

Named Security:

Who can edit? Nobody

Who has edited? Patrick Hennessy/POLICY/DOH/GB

Who can read?

Modification History:

22/01/2009 12:08 (Konrad Borowski) - Modified registered file

William Connon

17/09/2007 10:31

To: Patrick
Hennessy/POLICY/DOH/GB@GRO-C; Zubeda
Seedat/PH6/DOH/GB@GRO-C

cc:
bcc:
Subject: RE: Contaminated

Blood Independent Public Inquiry

FYI

William G Connon
Head of Blood Policy
Department of Health
530 Wellington House
Waterloo Road
London
SE1 8EG

GRO-C

----- Forwarded by William Connon/PD-PMD/DOH/GB on 17/09/2007 10:28 -----

"Rahulan Shibani
LSPG SOL C4"
<Shibani.Rahulan@GRO-C
GRO-C

11/09/2007 09:55

To: "Golden Conor LSPG
SOL C5" <Conor.Golden@GRO-C
cc: William Connon/PD-
PMD/DOH/GB@GRO-C

bcc:
Subject: RE: Contaminated

Blood Independent Public Inquiry

Conor

1. There is no minute containing specific advice. Rather there are Ministerial submissions setting out, amongst other things, the implications of giving evidence at the Archer inquiry. This is because DH already had an idea of the drawbacks of giving evidence and were averse to the idea from the outset. So SOL's advice was in the nature of commenting on/making changes to these submissions rather than specific, discrete advice.

2. (There is a recent minute setting out advice on a separate matter - namely the implications of Scotland now proceeding to hold their own public inquiry into the same matter but that will not be relevant to you).
3. As to the legal basis - I think the main consideration was that since the Archer inquiry was not a statutory one DH could not be compelled to give evidence therefore it was really up to DH whether to attend.
4. Another consideration was the fact that with official Government Inquiries there is a clear legal framework under which to operate in the case of an inquiry under the Inquiries Act 2005 and in the case of non-statutory government inquiries there are established principles and guidelines, for example the question of legal indemnities to officials against the possibility of legal proceedings being instituted against them as a result of their evidence to the inquiry. It was not clear what protection if any would be available to officials giving evidence at the Archer inquiry.
<?xml:namespace prefix = o ns = "urn:schemas-microsoft-com:office:office" />
5. DH was also worried about the vast amount of preparation that would be required if officials/Ministers were called to give evidence and answer questions about over 6000 documents.
6. Also, if it was agreed that officials should give evidence, this might in turn have raised the possibility of ministers themselves being asked to give evidence.
7. What DH said at the meeting with the Archer inquiry was that they would struggle to find appropriate people to give evidence because the events are historic and consequently there is hardly anyone around who would have first-hand knowledge of the events. You have also seen the Q&A on this topic. Together these seem to have sufficed for the purposes of stemming calls for DH to give evidence.
8. I think the Q& A can be shown to the MHRA as it was a Health Select Committee one and therefore the response must be in the public domain but I will double-check with the client and let you know. I am copying in William for information.

Thanks

Shibani
Shibani Rahulan
SOLC4
Room 531, New Court
GRO-C

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----- Message from "Golden Conor LSPG SOL C5" <CONOR.GOLDEN@GRO-C> on Mon, 10 Sep 2007 18:23:41 +0100 -----

To: "Rahulan Shibani LSPG SOL C4"

<SHIBANI.RAHULAN@GRO-C>

Subject: RE: Contaminated Blood Independent Public Inquiry

Shibani,

Thank you for your e-mail which is helpful. I also read the e-mails that Simon Rogers forwarded to me about this issue today. I have pasted below in red one of those e-mails - from Shaun Gallagher, Director of Policy at the MHRA to William Connon dated 19/03/07. Therefore, it seems the MHRA have been alive to the two issues of whether (a) they should give evidence at the Archer inquiry and (b) if not should they "co-operate" in the same manner as DH ie by sharing factual information.

I don't know how far Shaun Gallagher and William Connon took their discussions. From Denise Randall's brief telephone conversation with me on Friday it seemed the MHRA wanted to follow the same line as DH as regards giving evidence and wished to see SOL's advice to DH so they could consider the (legal) basis for the DH's decision. Once the advice was read by the MHRA they would inform the inquiry that they did not intend to give evidence and I assume they would want to give the same or similar reasons as those provided by DH. The MHRA is an executive agency of the DH and I cannot imagine it will want to depart from DH's approach here.

Denise did not mention any issues regarding exchange of factual information.

As I understand your e-mail Denise is wrong in thinking that there is a SOL advice document setting out its views to DH which the MHRA can consider. Is that right? The Q and A document which you have sent me is useful and is presumably the DH's explanation of its stance following whatever advice was given by SOL. May I send this to Denise? The Q and A may be sufficient for the MHRA's purposes.

Conor

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

From: Gallagher Shaun MHRA
Sent: 19 March 2007 10:41
To: Connors William DOH GSI
Cc: Rogers Simon LSPG SOL C5; Hudson Ian MHRA; Jones Sue MHRA
Subject: Contaminated Blood Products Inquiry

William

Simon Rogers has kindly copied me some papers relating to the (non-Governmental) inquiry into contamination of blood products in the 1970s and 1980s, being led by Lord Archer of Sandwell.

I wanted to check whether you had made any connection with the MHRA on this work, for two reasons:

- first, the MHRA is the successor of the Medicines Division which will have been responsible for licensing decisions on blood products at the time, and it would be important to ensure that your records search included any for which we are responsible (my assumption is that you have already done this, but it would be helpful to confirm - Sue, would we hold papers from back then?)

- secondly, on the more practical point that this inquiry could decide to ask MHRA to participate/ provide evidence, we'll need to make sure we agree a consistent line (and the assumption would be that we reflect the DH position).

Grateful if you could let me know whether there have already been any discussions with MHRA, and if not, for sharing of papers so that we can be up to speed.

Many thanks

Shaun

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

From: Rahulan Shibani LSPG SOL C4
Sent: 10 September 2007 17:37
To: Golden Conor LSPG SOL C5
Subject: RE: Contaminated Blood Independent Public Inquiry

Conor

DH has decided that there is no merit in holding a public inquiry nor will DH give evidence at the Archer inquiry as it would be inappropriate given the decision not to hold an inquiry.

Instead DH has "cooperated" with the inquiry by sharing the results of its own review of all the documentation it holds in connection with this matter and also supplying factual information. We did attend a meeting with the Archer inquiry panel to see what they might need from us. The idea was to maintain a balance between not giving evidence to the inquiry (i.e not attending their hearings to give evidence) and helping them with factual materials etc.

The attached Q&A might help to give you a better understanding of the DH approach (this also sets out the background in brief).

As you know, the inquiry cannot compel the MHRA to give evidence. So the question is whether it is appropriate for the MHRA to give evidence. I think MHRA is an Agency of DH? Would it be appropriate for such a body to give evidence in circumstances where DH does not think it appropriate for DH to give evidence? What are the MHRA's own views? Might it be worth considering the option of "cooperating" with the inquiry like DH did, say by sharing factual information etc?

Do you think MHRA might find it helpful to speak to the DH policy leads directly in the first instance? The relevant person would be William Conon, head of Blood Policy. His no. is GRO-C

GRO-C May I pass your email to William so that he has advance notice of this matter?

Happy to discuss.

Thanks

Shibani

Shibani Rahulan
SOLC4
Room 531, New Court

GRO-C

----- Forwarded by Rowena Jecock/PH6/DOH/GB on 16/03/2009 13:50 -----

Ian Matthews/PR-
OFF/DOH/GB

12/03/2009 15:17

To Aimee Gasston/POLICY/DOH/GB@**GRO-C**
cc Rowena Jecock/PH6/DOH/GB@**GRO-C**
Subject Archer Inquiry FOI Case - Batch 2

And here's the other!

I hope this is helpful Aimee; just to pre-warn you, tomorrow is my last day before I go on leave for a week, so if there is time to make progress on this case tomorrow, that would be great.

Many thanks for your help with this. Happy to discuss if necessary.

Ian

Ian Matthews
Policy Officer
Infectious Diseases and Blood Policy Team
Room 530
Wellington House

GRO-C

----- Forwarded by Ian Matthews/PR-OFF/DOH/GB on 12/03/2009 15:15 -----

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"Release of Blood Safety Papers - Sir Donald Acheson"

File Title:

GHP - Treatment - Haemophilia - Independent Public Enquiry into the supply of contaminated NHS Blood & Blood products

File Reference:

GHP/005/006/030 Vol 2

Protective Marking:

Filed by: **William Connon/PD-PMD/DOH/GB on 11/10/2007 at 15:41**

Created by: **Patrick Hennessy/POLICY/DOH/GB on 22/06/2007 at 11:28**

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22/01/2009 12:08 (Konrad Borowski) - Modified registered file

Patrick Hennessy

22/06/2007 11:28

OFF/DOH/GB@GRO-C

Page/SSU/DOH/GB@GRO-C William Connon/PD-
PMD/DOH/GB@GRO-C

To: Richard Kelly/PR-

cc: Linda

bcc:

Subject: Release of Blood

Safety Papers - Sir Donald Acheson

Richard

We spoke. The review of blood safety papers has now reached the mid-1980s when most are concerned with the impact of AIDS. The CMO of the day, Sir Donald Acheson, was heavily involved and many papers cover his advice on measures to be taken. These papers are due to be issued over the summer in line with FOI, to meet a commitment to the independent public inquiry led by Lord Archer. We feel we should drop Sir Donald a line to warn him this is happening, as he may be contacted for a reaction once these are issued (they will also be on the DH website). I will be grateful if you can help with obtaining his contact details. Alternatively, you may feel a letter should go from CMOs office, in which case this team will be happy to provide a draft.

Patrick

Patrick Hennessy
Review of Blood Safety Documentation
Infectious Diseases and Blood Policy Branch
517, Wellington House
135-155 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8UG.
Tel. GRO-C

GTN: GRO-C
patrick.hennessy@ GRO-C

----- Forwarded by Ian Matthews/PR-OFF/DOH/GB on 12/03/2009 15:15 -----

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"RE: Lord Archer Inquiry"

File Title:

GHP - Treatment - Haemophilia - Independent Public Enquiry into the supply of contaminated NHS Blood & Blood products

File Reference:

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Created by: **patricia.hewitt@ GRO-C** on **24/08/2007 at 08:39**

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22/01/2009 12:08 (Konrad Borowski) - Modified registered file

patricia.hewitt@GRO-C
GRO-C
24/08/2007 08:39

To: peter.garwood@ GRO-C
cc: lorna.williamson@ GRO-C Jane.Martin@ GRO-C
chris.hartley@ GRO-C sue.reader@ GRO-C
tim.wallington@ GRO-C Clive.Dash@ GRO-C William
Connon/PD-PMD/DOH/GB@ GRO-C
bcc:
Subject: RE: Lord Archer
Inquiry

Thanks Peter.

I had some warning of this.

Meanwhile, would it be wise for those of us who have not seen it to read Ian Franklin's submission (6th day, end July)? Link below.

<http://www.archercbbp.com/hearing.php>

Regards

Pat

From: Reader Sue **On Behalf Of** Garwood Peter
Sent: 23 August 2007 18:31
To: Wallington Tim; Hewitt Patricia; Dash Clive (BPL); 'william.connon@GRO-C' Garwood Peter
Cc: Williamson Lorna; Martin Jane (BPL); Hartley Chris; Reader Sue
Subject: Lord Archer Inquiry
Importance: High

Dear colleague -

May I please advise you that NHSBT has accepted a request to participate in a confidential meeting with Lord Archer's team at a date yet to be determined, and that the primary addressees in this email (Tim, Patricia, Clive, William and me) will attend on behalf of NHSBT. I hope this doesn't come as too much of a surprise or shock to any of you.

At the moment we do not know when this meeting will take place and I recognise that fitting this in at relatively short notice may well be very difficult, but I would seek your co-operation in being as flexible as possible. I anticipate that it will be mid to late September, i.e. unlikely to be before 10 September. I will get back to you as soon as I have any further information.

Thank you for your support.

Regards

Peter

Peter Garwood
NHSBT Director Strategic Supply & Specialist Services

+++++

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"Lord Archer Inquiry"

File Title:

GHP - Treatment - Haemophilia - Independent Public Enquiry into the supply of contaminated NHS Blood & Blood products

File Reference:

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peter.garwood@ GRO-C
GRO-C
Sent by:
sue.reader@ GRO-C
GRO-C
23/08/2007 18:30

To:
tim.wallington@ GRO-C patricia.hewitt@ GRO-C
Clive.Dash@ GRO-C William Connon/PD-PMD/DOH/GB@ GRO-C
peter.garwood@ GRO-C
cc:
lorna.williamson@ GRO-C Jane.Martin@ GRO-C
chris.hartley@ GRO-C sue.reader@ GRO-C
bcc:
Subject: Lord Archer Inquiry

Dear colleague -

May I please advise you that NHSBT has accepted a request to participate in a confidential meeting with Lord Archer's team at a date yet to be determined, and that the primary addressees in this email (Tim, Patricia, Clive, William and me) will attend on behalf of NHSBT. I hope this doesn't come as too much of a surprise or shock to any of you.

At the moment we do not know when this meeting will take place and I recognise that fitting this in at relatively short notice may well be very difficult, but I would seek your co-operation in being as flexible as possible. I anticipate that it will be mid to late September, i.e. unlikely to be before 10 September. I will get back to you as soon as I have any further information.

Thank you for your support.

Regards
Peter

Peter Garwood
NHSBT Director Strategic Supply & Specialist Services

+++++

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"RE: Public inquiry into hepatitis C"

| | |
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| File Reference: | GHP/005/006/030 Vol 2 |
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| Filed by: | William Connon/PD-PMD/DOH/GB on 11/10/2007 at 15:42 |
| Created by: | William Connon/PD-PMD/DOH/GB on 27/06/2007 at 08:05 |

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| Who can read? | |

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22/01/2009 12:08 (Konrad Borowski) - Modified registered file

William Connon

27/06/2007 08:05

To: Elizabeth
Woodeson/CQEG/DOH/GB, Ailsa Wight/PH6/DOH/GB, Zubeda
Seedat/PH6/DOH/GB, Jacky Buchan/PR-OFF/DOH/GB, Dani
Lee/PR-OFF/DOH/GB, Rebecca Lloyd/ICB/DOH/GB, Liz
Kendall/PR-OFF/DOH/GB

cc: Linda
Page/SSU/DOH/GB@GRO-C Patrick
Hennessy/POLICY/DOH/GB@GRO-C

bcc:
Subject: RE: Public inquiry
into hepatitis C

FYI. Confirmation that the Scots are awaiting the outcome of the Archer Inquiry before making any further decisions on the need for a Scottish Government Inquiry. I will be discussing this with all DA colleagues at the meeting Sylvia Shearer mentions.

Linda - I think you should also ensure that our Welsh and Irish colleagues are kept informed and in the case of Wales it would be advisable to confirm that they will be doing likewise.

Regards

William G Connon
Head of Blood Policy
Department of Health
530 Wellington House
Waterloo Road
London
SE1 8EG

GRO-C

----- Forwarded by William Connon/PD-PMD/DOH/GB on 27/06/2007 07:57 -----

Linda Page

27/06/2007 07:24

PMD/DOH/GB@GRO-C
OFF/DOH/GB@GRO-C

into hepatitis C

To: William Connon/PD-
cc: Gregory Hartwell/PR-
bcc:
Subject: RE: Public inquiry

William
Confirmation email from Sylvia on the position in Scotland re public inquiry into hepatitis C.
Regards
Linda
Linda Page

Tel: [GRO-C]
Mobile: [GRO-C]

----- Forwarded by Linda Page/SSU/DOH/GB on 27/06/2007 07:22 -----

<Sylvia.Shearer@[GRO-C]
[GRO-C]
26/06/2007 14:31

To: Linda
Page/SSU/DOH/GB@[GRO-C]
cc:
<John.Brunton@[GRO-C]
bcc:
Subject: RE: Public inquiry
into hepatitis C

Dear Linda

Nice to hear from you. Your understanding, at this point in time, is correct although we would rather say "Scottish Government" than SNP if you are putting this in any background briefing. We, like you no doubt, are keeping a watching brief on the Archer Inquiry as it progresses. If there is any change in position by the Scottish Government, we will, of course, keep you informed.

William had indicated we should meet up soon (the four administrations) and that it should be in Scotland. I have offered to host a meeting.

Sylvia

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

From: Linda.Page@[GRO-C] [mailto:Linda.Page@[GRO-C]
Sent: 26 June 2007 13:58
To: Shearer S (Sylvia)
Cc: William.Connon@[GRO-C]
Subject: Public inquiry into hepatitis C

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Sylvia

I spoke to John Brunton in your absence a few weeks ago following your email of the 29th May, copied to William, regarding the announcement of a hep C inquiry in Scotland.

I wanted to confirm our understanding, from my conversation with John, of the position in Scotland. This is that a public inquiry into hepatitis C was a commitment in the SNP manifesto. The current position is that the SNP does not want to duplicate work and will wait until the Lord Archer inquiry has concluded before taking any decision on this. John Brunton is keeping a watching brief and will keep us informed.

Regards
Linda

Linda Page
Tel: [GRO-C]
Mobile: [GRO-C]

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"Draft Briefing for Hugh Taylor"

File Title:

GHP - Treatment - Haemophilia - Independent Public Enquiry into the supply of contaminated NHS Blood & Blood products

File Reference:

GHP/005/006/030 Vol 2

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Who can read?

Modification History:

22/01/2009 12:08 (Konrad Borowski) - Modified registered file

Linda Page

04/07/2007 07:37

PMD/DOH/GB@GRO-C

Hennessy/POLICY/DOH/GB@GRO-C

Hugh Taylor

To: William Connon/PD-

cc: Patrick

bcc:

Subject: Draft Briefing for

William

Attached is a draft of the briefing for Hugh Taylor, required by next Monday.

I need to check the position with Lord Archer's inquiry, I've just put down what I think is the position.

Is this the type of level you were thinking of.

Regards

Linda



Brief Hugh Taylor - Blood Products.doc

Linda Page

Tel: GRO-C

Mobile: GRO-C

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"RE: Contaminated Blood Independent Public Inquiry"

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| File Title: | GHP - Treatment - Haemophilia - Independent Public Enquiry into the supply of contaminated NHS Blood & Blood products |
| File Reference: | GHP/005/006/030 Vol 2 |
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Modification History:

22/01/2009 12:08 (Konrad Borowski) - Modified registered file

William Connon
17/09/2007 10:31

To: Patrick
Hennessy/POLICY/DOH/GB@GRO-C
Seedat/PH6/DOH/GB@GRO-C
Zubeda
cc:
bcc:
Subject: RE: Contaminated
Blood Independent Public Inquiry

FYI

William G Connon
Head of Blood Policy
Department of Health
530 Wellington House
Waterloo Road
London
SE1 8EG

GRO-C

----- Forwarded by William Connon/PD-PMD/DOH/GB on 17/09/2007 10:28 -----

"Rahulan Shibani
LSPG SOL C4"
<Shibani.Rahulan@GRO-C
GRO-C
11/09/2007 09:55

To: "Golden Conor LSPG
SOL C5" <Conor.Golden@GRO-C
PMD/DOH/GB@GRO-C
cc: William Connon/PD-
bcc:

Conor

1. There is no minute containing specific advice. Rather there are Ministerial submissions setting out, amongst other things, the implications of giving evidence at the Archer inquiry. This is because DH already had an idea of the drawbacks of giving evidence and were averse to the idea from the outset. So SOL's advice was in the nature of commenting on/making changes to these submissions rather than specific, discrete advice.
2. (There is a recent minute setting out advice on a separate matter - namely the implications of Scotland now proceeding to hold their own public inquiry into the same matter but that will not be relevant to you).
3. As to the legal basis - I think the main consideration was that since the Archer inquiry was not a statutory one DH could not be compelled to give evidence therefore it was really up to DH whether to attend.
4. Another consideration was the fact that with official Government Inquiries there is a clear legal framework under which to operate in the case of an inquiry under the Inquiries Act 2005 and in the case of non-statutory government inquiries there are established principles and guidelines, for example the question of legal indemnities to officials against the possibility of legal proceedings being instituted against them as a result of their evidence to the inquiry. It was not clear what protection if any would be available to officials giving evidence at the Archer inquiry.
<?xml:namespace prefix = o ns = "urn:schemas-microsoft-com:office:office" />
5. DH was also worried about the vast amount of preparation that would be required if officials/Ministers were called to give evidence and answer questions about over 6000 documents.
6. Also, if it was agreed that officials should give evidence, this might in turn have raised the possibility of ministers themselves being asked to give evidence.
7. What DH said at the meeting with the Archer inquiry was that they would struggle to find appropriate people to give evidence because the events are historic and consequently there is hardly anyone around who would have first-hand knowledge of the events. You have also seen the Q&A on this topic. Together these seem to have sufficed for the purposes of stemming calls for DH to give evidence.
8. I think the Q&A can be shown to the MHRA as it was a Health Select Committee one and therefore the response must be in the public domain but I will double-check with the client and let you know. I am copying in William for information.

Thanks

Shibani
Shibani Rahulan
SOLC4
Room 531, New Court
GRO-C

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----- Message from "Golden Conor LSPG SOL C5" <CONOR.GOLDEN@GRO-C> on Mon, 10 Sep 2007 18:23:41 +0100 -----

To: "Rahulan Shibani LSPG SOL C4"

<SHIBANI.RAHULAN@GRO-C>

Subject: RE: Contaminated Blood Independent Public Inquiry

Shibani,

Thank you for your e-mail which is helpful. I also read the e-mails that Simon Rogers forwarded to me about this issue today. I have pasted below in red one of those e-mails - from Shaun Gallagher, Director of Policy at the MHRA to William Connon dated 19/03/07. Therefore, it seems the MHRA have been alive to the two issues of whether (a) they should give evidence at the Archer inquiry and (b) if not should they "co-operate" in the same manner as DH ie by sharing factual information.

I don't know how far Shaun Gallagher and William Connon took their discussions. From Denise Randall's brief telephone conversation with me on Friday it seemed the MHRA wanted to follow the same line as DH as regards giving evidence and wished to see SOL's advice to DH so they could consider the (legal) basis for the DH's decision. Once the advice was read by the MHRA they would inform the inquiry that they did not intend to give evidence and I assume they would want to give the same or similar reasons as those provided by DH. The MHRA is an executive agency of the DH and I cannot imagine it will want to depart from DH's approach here.

Denise did not mention any issues regarding exchange of factual information.

As I understand your e-mail Denise is wrong in thinking that there is a SOL advice document setting out its views to DH which the MHRA can consider. Is that right? The Q and A document which you have sent

me is useful and is presumably the DH's explanation of its stance following whatever advice was given by SOL. May I send this to Denise? The Q and A may be sufficient for the MHRA's purposes.

Conor

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

From: Gallagher Shaun MHRA

Sent: 19 March 2007 10:41

To: Connolly William DOH GSI

Cc: Rogers Simon LSPG SOL C5; Hudson Ian MHRA; Jones Sue MHRA

Subject: Contaminated Blood Products Inquiry

William

Simon Rogers has kindly copied me some papers relating to the (non-Governmental) inquiry into contamination of blood products in the 1970s and 1980s, being led by Lord Archer of Sandwell.

I wanted to check whether you had made any connection with the MHRA on this work, for two reasons:

- first, the MHRA is the successor of the Medicines Division which will have been responsible for licensing decisions on blood products at the time, and it would be important to ensure that your records search included any for which we are responsible (my assumption is that you have already done this, but it would be helpful to confirm - Sue, would we hold papers from back then?)

- secondly, on the more practical point that this inquiry could decide to ask MHRA to participate/ provide evidence, we'll need to make sure we agree a consistent line (and the assumption would be that we reflect the DH position).

Grateful if you could let me know whether there have already been any discussions with MHRA, and if not, for sharing of papers so that we can be up to speed.

Many thanks

Shaun

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

From: Rahulan Shibani LSPG SOL C4

Sent: 10 September 2007 17:37

To: Golden Conor LSPG SOL C5

Subject: RE: Contaminated Blood Independent Public Inquiry

Conor

DH has decided that there is no merit in holding a public inquiry nor will DH give evidence at the Archer inquiry as it would be inappropriate given the decision not to hold an inquiry.

Instead DH has "cooperated" with the inquiry by sharing the results of its own review of all the documentation it holds in connection with this matter and also supplying factual information. We did attend a meeting with the Archer inquiry panel to see what they might need from us. The idea was to maintain a balance between not giving evidence to the inquiry (i.e not attending their hearings to give evidence) and helping them with factual materials etc.

The attached Q&A might help to give you a better understanding of the DH approach (this also sets out the background in brief).

As you know, the inquiry cannot compel the MHRA to give evidence. So the question is whether it is appropriate for the MHRA to give evidence. I think MHRA is an Agency of DH? Would it be appropriate for such a body to give evidence in circumstances where DH does not think it appropriate for DH to give evidence? What are the MHRA's own views? Might it be worth considering the option of "cooperating" with the inquiry like DH did, say by sharing factual information etc?

Do you think MHRA might find it helpful to speak to the DH policy leads directly in the first instance? The relevant person would be William Conon, head of Blood Policy. His no. is **GRO-C**
GRO-C May I pass your email to William so that he has advance notice of this matter?

Happy to discuss.

Thanks

Shibani

Shibani Rahulan
SOLC4
Room 531, New Court
GRO-C

(Content modified in mailfile prior to filing since first received on 17/09/2007 10:29.

Last modified in mailfile: 04/12/2007 16:05)----- Forwarded by Ian Matthews/PR-OFF/DOH/GB on 12/03/2009 15:15 -

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"Lord Archer's independent inquiry into contaminated blood and blood products"

File Title:

GHP - Treatment - Haemophilia - Independent Public Enquiry into the supply of contaminated NHS Blood & Blood products

File Reference:

GHP/005/006/030 Vol 2

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**Patrick
Hennessy/POLICY/DOH/GB**
07/02/2008 13:41

To Sarah Hall/DAC/DOH/GB@GRO-C
cc Julia Scott/DEL-GBT/DOH/GB@GRO-C Aimee
Gasston/POLICY/DOH/GB@GRO-C Robert
Parsons/OIS/DOH@GRO-C David
Harper/HPIHSD/DOH/GB@GRO-C Elizabeth
Woodeson/CQEG/DOH/GB@GRO-C Ailsa
Wight/PH6/DOH/GB@GRO-C William Connors/PD-
PMD/DOH/GB@GRO-C Zubeda
Seedat/PH6/DOH/GB@GRO-C
bcc
Subject Lord Archer's independent inquiry into contaminated blood
and blood products

I attach a memo, for information only, to MS(PH) covering a meeting to be held between Lord Archer and officials from the Scottish Executive, which we will attend. I am afraid it was not possible to give more notice - these arrangements (which are not ours) have only been made this week. As the meeting is on 18 February, it will be very helpful if MS(PH) can be informed, rather than wait until resumption of normal business on that day.



MS(PH) - Lord Archer meeting 18 Feb.doc

Patrick Hennessy
Project Manager
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----- Forwarded by Ian Matthews/PR-OFF/DOH/GB on 12/03/2009 15:15 -----

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"Meeting with Lord Archer, 18 February"

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**Patrick
Hennessy/POLICY/DOH/GB**
18/02/2008 18:31

To William Connon/PD-PMD/DOH/GB@GRO-C Ailsa
Wight/PH6/DOH/GB@GRO-C
cc Elizabeth Woodeson/CQEG/DOH/GB@GRO-C
bcc
Subject Meeting with Lord Archer, 18 February

History:

☐ This message has been replied to.

As you know, I attended the meeting today between Lord Archer and representatives of the Scottish Government. I attach an informal note of the meeting, for internal use only. Please note that both sides agreed this would remain a private meeting, and neither the Archer team nor SG will be putting out anything about it.



Meeting with Lord Archer, 18 Feb 2008.doc

Patrick Hennessy
Project Manager

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