

**"Re: Meeting request from The Manor House Group"**

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Nobody
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Jacky,

I attach advice and a draft reply.



Meeting request from the MHG.doc

Zubeda Seedat  
General Health Protection

**GRO-C**

Jacky Buchan

**Jacky Buchan**  
18/01/2006 08:54

To: Seedat/PH6/DOH/GB@**GRO-C**  
cc: Cannon/PD-PMD/DOH/GB@**GRO-C**  
bcc:  
Subject: from The Manor House Group

Zubeda  
William  
Meeting request

Hi Zubeda,

The attached meeting request from the Manor House Group has just been passed to me - it is already fairly old having been received in DH in November.

Could you please provide me with advice as to whether PS(PH) should meet in a form that can be put to PS(PH) and also a draft reply.

If I could have this by close on Tuesday 24 January please.

Many thanks

Jacky Buchan  
APS PS(PH)



image.tif

Jacky Buchan

From: Zubeda Seedat

Date: 3 February 2006

Copy: Rebecca Spavin  
Gerard Hetherington  
Ailsa Wight  
William Connon  
Steve Wells

## **MEETING REQUEST FROM THE MANOR HOUSE GROUP**

1. You asked for advice on a letter from the Manor House Group requesting a meeting with Secretary of State.

### **Recommendation**

2. A meeting with Secretary of State is not recommended. Nor would we recommend that a meeting is offered with PS(PH). A letter declining the invitation to meet is attached at **Annex A**.

### **The Manor House Group**

3. The Manor House Group was set up about 10-11 years ago as a campaign and self-help organisation for haemophiliacs infected with hepatitis C. They broke away from the Haemophilia Society because they did not think the Society was pursuing vigorously enough the issue of compensation. Activists in the group are extremely bitter about the way they feel the Government has treated them. Their key campaign aim is for a public inquiry into why haemophilia patients were infected with hepatitis C.

4. Ministers are familiar with the key issues concerning the haemophilia lobby groups, and public statements have been made in response to the issue concerning them. Ministers will have nothing further to add.

### **Freedom of Information Requests**

5. The Manor House Group have requested a meeting to discuss why the Department has been unable to provide papers under the Freedom of Information Act. We have had 6 FOI requests from individuals involved with haemophilia lobby groups. In general, we have been unable to meet these requests for a number of reasons:

- i) We established that in some cases papers have been destroyed.
- ii) DH are not the holders of some of the documents requested.
- iii) Some of the requests would exceed the £600 limit applied to cases.

We have been able to provide papers relating to a research project and a copy of a Medicines Control Agency Inspection Report on Blood Products Laboratory.

6. Following requests under FOI and enquiries by Lord Jenkin it has emerged that many of our past papers have been destroyed. This has prompted accusations that the Department deliberately destroyed papers.

#### **Self Sufficiency in Blood Products - Review of Papers**

7. The letter from the Manor House Group refers to the internal review of papers on Self Sufficiency in Blood Products. This report will be published on 16 February 2006.

Zubeda Seedat  
530 Wellington House  
Ext: **GRO-C**

**Annex A**

Mr **GRO-A**  
Information Co-ordinator  
The Manor House Group

**GRO-C**  
Cheshire **GRO-C**

Thank you for your letter of 11 November to Patricia Hewitt requesting a meeting to discuss the issues that are concerning people with haemophilia who have been infected with hepatitis C. Please accept my apologies for the delay in reply.

I regret to inform you that the Secretary of State will be unable to meet with you. Ministers are of course aware of the issues that concern haemophilia patients. With regards to the review of papers on self sufficiency in blood products, I am pleased to inform you that the report will be published in Mid-February, and officials will ensure that you are sent a copy.

Yours sincerely

Private Secretary