

NOTE OF MAIN POINTS DISCUSSED AT A MEETING HELD TO CONSIDER
MANAGEMENT OF HIV INFECTED BLOOD TRANSFUSION CASES,
ST ANDREW'S HOUSE, 5 NOVEMBER 1991, 10.00AM

Present

ME3

Mr G Tucker
Mr R Panton
Mrs S Falconer

Solicitor's Office

Mr R Henderson

Central Legal Office

Mr R Macdonald
Mrs J Atterbury

62
35
AGREEMENT
ON
RETENTION OF
"TAILS"
PARA 3

Medical Adviser

Dr A McIntyre

1. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss follow-up action from previous meeting held on 29 May and consider the way forward.
2. Mr Panton confirmed CD(S)U had advised 11 reported cases so far and that 6 claims had now been received by Solicitor's Office.
3. SNBTS had now ceased destruction of the "tails" (aliquots) and had given details of retention periods as follows:-

	Aberdeen	Dundee	Edinburgh	Glasgow	Inverness
From	Oct 1985	Sept 1983	April 1984	Jan 1986	April 1986

(Of the 6 claims received "tail" samples for 3 of the cases are still available). (GRO-A)).

The SNBTS initial concerns about storage costs had now been resolved and they now welcomed their retention as the samples did not deteriorate and might prove useful for research purposes.

Both Mr Macdonald and Mr Henderson agreed that samples should be retained indefinitely and the decision reviewed periodically. It was agreed that Mr Tucker would write to Mr Donald to confirm this.

Dr McIntyre pointed out, however, that although a test carried out now may give a positive result, tests which were available at the time of donation may have shown negative.

4. Mrs Atterbury confirmed that claimants' medical records were being made available to their solicitors on request.

5. Concern was expressed that although donor identities had not previously been revealed it may be difficult to ensure the donor anonymity in future cases. Mr Henderson advised that an English decision was pending Mr Panton would check with DoH.

6. Mr Tucker reported that the Government line remained the same and that there were no signs of DoH opening up compensation to non-haemophiliacs.

Mrs Atterbury reported that one of the cases would probably be in court soon as the claimant was not expected to live much longer. (GRO-A)).

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7. Three claims had also been received in respect of claimants who had allegedly contracted Hep C as a result of a blood transfusion. Dr McIntyre advised that proving the source of infection was more difficult in Hep C cases and whilst a small percentage might develop severe liver disease, it was unlikely to arouse the same degree of support as the HIV cases.

8. In summary, the group agreed the following action:-

8.1 SNBTS to be advised that tails are to be retained indefinitely.

8.2 Mr Panton to check with DoH on decision pending on donor anonymity.

ME3/2

10 December 1991