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TBL 4

By e-mail

Dr A Rejman CA-OPU2

From: Sue Ryan SolC3

Date: 3 April 1996

Copy: Dr Metters DCMO

Mr Guinness CA-OPU

Mr Pudlo CA-OPU2

Ms S Edwards SolB4

Hepatitis B core antibody testing - letter from Dr Napier 25.3.96

1. Thank you for letting me see this letter. I consider that there is no duty to disclose the decisions or the reasons and decision-making processes of the ACVSB and its successor the MSBT, being advisory committees for the Secretary of State or the Department of Health generally, simply on request.

2. It may be that if the plaintiff in an action obtained an order from the Court we should reconsider. However, I think it possible that we would then seek to rely on public interest immunity in any event. As this is not in my areas of expertise, I am copying the papers to Ms Edwards, who has just been appointed as the head of SolB4, our litigation section, as I think it would be advisable for her to respond directly to you and copyees on this aspect.

3. However, I share your view that we should not disclose any information of the type requested in the absence of a court order compelling us to do so.

Sue Ryan
SolC3
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x GRO-C