GRO-C

Mrs Tracey Turnbull,
Senior Solicitor,
Central Legal Office,
Edinburgh

Dear Mrs Turnbull,

Thank you for your e mail and discussion with me recently re the finding in the preliminary report of the Penrose enquiry. Your question is how Aberdeen Haemophilia Centre came to have 7 haemophilic patients who were HIV positive in 1982-7, in the absence of any evidence of our use of commercial Factor VIII. (I am assuming that you have Dr Henry Watson's helpful e-mail and other communications from him.) I have discussed the situation with Dr N. Bruce Bennett, who was co-director of the Aberdeen Centre with me in the1980s-1990s, and the short answer is that we did not identify a link between any batch of Scottish concentrate and HIV positivity. You will appreciate that I am now elderly, and my memory of the events is not totally sharp, especially as the saga of HIV positivity unfolded over several years.

We would like to make the following comments.

1. We had several patients, whose exposure to commercial concentrates before arrival was not accurately known to us. Aberdeen and North-East Scotland in the 1970s-80s were experiencing an economic boom related to North Sea oil, and we had many incomers, often transient. One man I remember treating was French, working off-shore on a Total rig, having not admitted to his French employers that he had haemophilia (for which he had been treated in several other places). There were also several other haemophiliacs, who were transient in Grampian, either working or on holiday. Also, our 'native' patients, even although treated probably exclusively with NEBTS material in Aberdeen, would have been exposed to commercial products when away from North-east Scotland.
2. With regard to the records of material which we used in treatment, the North-East Blood Transfusion Service actually obtained the material for us, and kept detailed records of batch numbers, etc; while we (i.e. Haemophilia Centre) kept only minimal records of this in the clinic/ward, and this mainly related to the amount and type of material. Even these latter records would have fallen victim to the Grampian clinical records system, where material which was considered transitory was culled in the 1980s, in order to try to contain the bulk of the clinical notes. This cull involved fluid charts, including IV fluids.
3. I was phoned some years ago by a retired member of the NEBTS staff, presumably triggered by the Penrose enquiry, asking if I could remember the batch numbers of both the PFC and commercial material that we had used in the 1970s—of course I could not, but that made me wonder if we *had* used some commercial Factor VIII (as well as the commercial FEIBA). The figures in the

document you sent indicate that we did not. The point I make is that I cannot be *sure* that we used no commercial Factor VIII at the time of interest to the Enquiry.

Dr Bennett and I both feel that this is as far as we can reliably contribute to the Enquiry. We hope this is of some help.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Audrey A. Dawson

cc Dr Bruce Bennett