



University of Cambridge
Division of Transfusion Medicine



6 March, 1996

EC/CET/

Dr P Hewitt
North London Blood Centre
Colindale Avenue
London NW9 5BG

Dear Pat

Enclosed is a short letter from Graeme which actually raises a number of issues. I think I heard you say at yesterday's meeting that we have no mandate to carry out any Look Back studies except those specifically sanctioned by the Department of Health?

I explained this to Graeme but he feels quite strongly that if patients are known to be HCV positive and have a past history of blood transfusion, there is a clinical need to establish whether or not the two are connected. He feels this is particularly so in this case and is urging me to do so. We have discussed my concerns and the likelihood that none of the information will be forthcoming. Undaunted he has gone off to search out the relevant hospital notes for donation numbers and/or operation date and will get back to me when, and if, these are available. If he is successful we could no doubt search our records for the donors but the likelihood is that one or all of them will not have continued to donate in to 1991 and the question seems to revolve around the ethics of contacting such donors.

Although I think I know what your advice will be, I shall be pleased to receive it.

Thank you for your help.

Yours sincerely

GRO-C

Dr Elizabeth Caffrey MA MB BChir MRCPPath
Consultant in Transfusion Medicine

Enc.



East Anglian
Blood Centre
Long Road
Cambridge CB2 2PT
Tel: 01223 245921
Fax: 01223 411618