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"follow up to meeting with Lord Archer"

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William Connon
26/04/2007 08:46

To: chris.hartley@ GRO-C
cc:
bcc:
Subject: follow up to meeting with Lord Archer

Chris,

Sorry, I missed the last letter off your email address!

Hope all is well with you

William G Connon
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----- Forwarded by William Connon/PD-PMD/DOH/GB on 26/04/2007 08:45 -----

William Connon
26/04/2007 07:55

To: terry.male@ GRO-C
cc: peter.garwood@ GRO-C , chris.hartley@ GRO-C
bcc:
Subject: follow up to meeting with Lord Archer

Terry,

Please see Ailsa's email below. We were asked by SofS to meet with Lords Archer and Turnberg (plus others from the inquiry team) to discuss how the department could assist them with their inquiry. We did this yesterday and the meeting went well. It has not been agreed that DH will appear before the inquiry but ministers are keen that we are as helpful as possible, without actually participating in the inquiry. As you can see Ailsa offered to provide them with a background note (chronology really) on safety procedures and also timelines on testing for both Hep A, B & C and HIV ie when tests were actually introduced.

It was clear at yesterday's meeting that their knowledge of the blood service is understandably not extensive either historically or contemporaneously. If it is possible to provide them with a short brief on how the service is configured both now and back in the 70's and 80's that would be helpful. They are very interested in BPL and in the commercial market for blood products. They expressed an interest in whether or not commercial companies would have (and do) tested as well and also whether plasma imported by BPL, or other companies, for fractionalisation, is also tested. We need to rememberer that they are investigating what happened some 25/30 odd years ago.

We did stress that lessons have been learned and that safety measures for blood products have improved greatly eg luecodepletion, NAT testing etc. If there is an easily accessible note of current safety measures then that too would be helpful. As Ailsa sates they are also interested in the timing of the introduction of the Blood safety Directive and also what legislative provisions were in place prior to that.

Happy to discuss, if more context would help, if this is but clear but I would be grateful if you could arrange for someone to provide the information required (liaising with MHRA as necessary). Ailsa has asked if this could be provided by the end of nest week: is that feasible?

Many thanks

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----- Forwarded by William Connon/PD-PMD/DOH/GB on 26/04/2007 07:29 -----

Ailsa Wight
25/04/2007 17:07

To: William Connon/PD-PMD/DOH/GB@GRO-C
cc: Linda Page/SSU/DOH/GB@GRO-C, Zubeda Seedat/PH6/DOH/GB@GRO-C, Hugh Nicholas/PH6/DOH/GB@GRO-C, Elizabeth Woodeson/CQEG/DOH/GB@GRO-C
bcc:
Subject: follow up to meeting with Lord Archer

William

We spoke on the way back and thought we should ask NHSBT, with MHRA as necessary, to put together a note on the safety regulatory framework, that is requirements and practice in relation to testing for hepatitis and HIV viruses, for:
- whole blood
- UK produced plasma prods
- imported plasma prods
to provide firstly a picture of the situation now, and secondly a chronology of the situation as it was pre-Directive as far as possible.

Grateful if you will follow up please. I don't know how long it will take to provide this - do you think the end of next week is too tight for them?

Thanks. Happy to discuss.

Dr Ailsa Wight
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