



Scottish National Blood
Transfusion Service
Head Office: Ellens Glen Road
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Our Ref: MLT-WS

27th October 2016

Mr William Stafford

GRO-C

Dear Mr Stafford

Re: CMV retinitis

Some time ago you wrote to our colleagues in NHS Grampian asking about possible routes to compensation in respect of your CMV retinitis.

Subsequent to your correspondence SNBTS carried out a detailed physical search of our historic donor sample archive. Due to the nature of the archive it has taken us quite some time to find the relevant samples, however we have now managed to retrieve all six.

Of these, one had insufficient volume to carry out any further testing, though for this sample there was a historic CMV antibody test result (carried out on 25/05/1994) which was negative.

For the other five samples, two had historic CMV antibody test results (carried out on 30/05/1993 and 24/09/1995 respectively) which were negative. The other three were not tested for CMV at that time – as I understand it because they could not be traced.

All five were re-tested using CMV antibody tests and these were all negative.

In addition, three had sufficient residual volume for us to use a modern nucleic acid test which detects the virus itself rather than the immune response to the virus (an antibody test). These samples were also negative by nucleic acid testing.

I have summarised these results in the table overpage for clarity.

Date of transfusion	Donation number	Historic anti-CMV antibody result	Current anti-CMV antibody result on original sample	CMV nucleic acid test result on original sample
June 1991	1048228	Negative	Negative	Insufficient sample volume
	1048368	Negative	Insufficient sample volume	Insufficient sample volume
	1049240	Not tested	Negative	Insufficient sample volume
October 1991	1174606	Negative	Negative	Negative
	1175289	Not tested	Negative	Negative
	1218840	Not tested	Negative	Negative

In summary, we have found no evidence of CMV infection in any of the six samples by CMV antibody testing and in three of these nucleic acid testing was also negative.

I am aware that Dr Stan Urbaniak wrote to you on 18th December 1995 informing you that SNBTS had tested the samples relating to the three donations you received in 1991 and that these gave a positive test result for CMV antibody. As far as we can tell only one of those three donations was tested in 1995 and was negative. As noted above, our testing of those samples this year for both CMV antibody and nucleic acid was negative. It appears therefore that the letter from Dr Urbaniak was incorrect in this regard and I apologise for this.

I hope this information is of value to you.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely

GRO-C

Professor Marc Turner
Medical Director SNBTS

Date transfused	Donation number	Historic anti-CMV result	Donor donation records				Archive testing	
			Donor number	Found in eProgesa?	Found in Dobbin?	Comments	HCMV DNA	Captia CMV TA EIA (index value)*
June 1991	1048228	Negative (30/05/1993)	n/a	No	No	Not found	Insufficient volume to test	Negative (0.2)
	1048368	Negative (25/05/1994)	n/a	No	No	Not found	Insufficient volume to test	Insufficient sample volume to test
	1049240	**	1074140	Yes	Yes	Index donation bled 02/06/1991. Next donation bled 1/12/1991, #1236364. No CMV results found for either donation.	Insufficient volume to test	Negative (0.2)
October 1991	1174606	Negative (24/09/1995)	n/a	No	No	Not found	Not detected	Negative (0.2)
	1175289	**	n/a	No	No	Not found	Not detected	Negative (0.2)
	1218840	**	n/a	No	No	Not found	Not detected	Negative (0.2)

*(anti-HCMV reactive if index value \geq 1.0)

** in historic correspondence reported as not tested

HCV DNA testing performed by NTMRL, NHSBT, London NW9 5BG

Anti-HCMV testing by NMRU, SNBTS, Glasgow G12 0XB