

To: Dr A Wight HEF1C

From: Dr J S Metters DCMO

Date: 11 December 1996

cc: Dr A Rejman CA-OPU2
Mr J Sloggem MCA-L
Dr N Wingfield RD2
Mr M Skinner HEF1C
Mrs J Griffin RD2
Dr J Toy RD2
Mr K Guinness CA-OPU
Ms A Towner CA-OPU2

A FRAMEWORK PROPOSAL TO SEAC ON EXPERIMENTAL APPROACHES TO THE TRANSMISSIBILITY OF TSE BY BLOOD, AND THE EFFECT OF LEUCODEPLETION

1. Thank you for your minute of 10 December which crossed with mine on the same subject. However, I had only received the protocol from Doctors Minor and Williamson without Dr Flanagan's covering letter. The origin of the protocol is now clear.
2. I agree with you that research is needed on the potential for CJD transmission by blood and blood products. As such, the Swales Committee and the RAG are the appropriate DH forums to take forward the commissioning of various research projects.
3. As you know, MSBT have discussed CJD and blood donation several times. On the Minor and Williamson proposal I expect they will adopt a similar position to SEAC. However, MSBT does not meet again until February or March, the date has not been arranged yet. To wait until then would involve unnecessary delay.
4. I suggest two lines of action. First, that RDD should consider how the Minor and Williamson proposal, the one from Baxter via Dr Onion and Dr Will, and the look-back study jointly proposed by the CJD Surveillance Unit and MBA should be taken forward. Could Mrs Griffin, Dr Wingfield and Dr Toy attend to the RDD handling please.
5. Second, on the Minor and Williamson proposal, we need MSBT's comments by correspondence. By copy of this minute I am asking Dr Rejman and Miss Towner to send the protocol, in confidence, to MSBT members, inviting any comments they may have on the proposal which can then be passed to the Swales Committee and the RAG. This will not preclude a corporate discussion of the proposal by MSBT at its next meeting.

6. You will be aware that CMO is concerned that we should expeditiously commission the research that is needed to elucidate whether or not blood and blood products are capable of transmitting TSEs. A paper summarising the various research studies that have been put forward to SEAC and MSBT could jointly be developed by HEF, RDD and CA-OPU.

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