



Stephen Waring  
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Sent by: Stephen Waring

To: Alan Harvey/PH6/DOH/GB  
cc: Mary Agnew/PR-OFF/DOH/GB@GRO-C  
Pat Troop/DCMO/DOH/GB@GRO-C  
Emma De Zoete/PR-OFF/DOH/GB@GRO-C  
Rachel Dickson/PR-OFF/DOH/GB@GRO-C  
Nick Raisen/PH-DCMO/DOH/GB@GRO-C  
Laurence Knight/COMMS/DOH/GB@GRO-C  
David Horton/COMMS/DOH/GB@GRO-C  
Wyn Roberts/COMMS/DOH/GB@GRO-C  
Rob Beasley/COMMS/DOH/GB@GRO-C  
Mary O'Mahony/PH6/DOH/GB@GRO-C  
Ailsa Wight/PH6/DOH/GB@GRO-C  
Philippa Edwards/PH6/DOH/GB@GRO-C  
Nicky Connor/PH6/DOH/GB@GRO-C  
Peter Jones/PH6/DOH/GB@GRO-C  
margaret.jackman@GRO-C  
Carole Fry/NUR/DOH/GB@GRO-C  
Charles Lister/HSD2/DOH/GB@GRO-C  
Howard.Roberts@GRO-C  
Elaine Gadd/PH4/DOH/GB@GRO-C  
barbara.macrae@GRO-C  
mike.simmons@GRO-C  
gaynor.legall@GRO-C  
Elizabeth.mitchell@GRO-C  
I = P/S = Nash-Official/OU = AHVG/O = MAFF/P = MAFF400/A = ATTmail/C = GB  
Barbara Richards/MHD/FSA@GRO-C

Subject: Re: CJD INCIDENT PANEL



RESTRICTED - Policy

Alan

SofS saw your submission of 21 August over the bank holiday weekend.

SofS is content for the consultation of interested parties to proceed, but with some reservations and a number of comments.

Firstly, he has noted that the lead on this issue is Rev Prof Michael Banner. I assume he is referring back to our earlier engagement with him.

At para 11 (the legal position of the database and prior informed consent) he says: "We need to be absolutely certain about this". It will be important therefore to obtain a definitive view, from Counsel if necessary.

At para 12, last three sentences about the proposed awareness campaign, SofS says: "I really don't think this is a good idea - surely a good media brief will be sufficient." On this basis I think that some **discussions with COMMS colleagues should take place**. Clearly there will also need to be some careful handling of the panel and its chair.

On paras 16 and 17 he has endorsed your statements on awaiting the results of the consultation, but contacting affected individuals without delay and briefing health care professionals.

His other overarching comment is: "Also this will expose the whole instruments issue. What will be our line? Where are we on it? **All of this will require a very careful media briefing operation.**"

On the consultation document itself he says: "I haven't gone through this in detail - does it say anything different to what we've said re risk of transmission etc. in the past e.g. instruments". Could you address this issue in a further note.

Many thanks.

Stephen.