

From: Mr Peter Jones, HEF 1.C of Department of Health  
Subject: CJD Exclusion criteria - blood donation  
Item posted: Tue 1 Oct 96 16:10  
To: Miss Ann Towner, CA-OPU2 of Department of Health  
Cc: Dr A L Wight, HEF 1.C of Department of Health  
Dr A Rejman, CA-OPU2 of Department of Health  
Mr M T Skinner, HEF1(C) of Department of Health

Anne,

Thank you for copying me into your minute of 27 September to Dr Rejman.

It seems to me that the only reply which could possibly be construed as "misleading" is the one to PQ 2662, April 1996, which includes the words "including a family history".

Tom Kelly's letter to you makes the point that the instruction to introduce a direct question about family history from 1 August is not a change of policy, but "simply underlining the existing donor exclusion criteria, which were revised and published in the Autumn of 1995".

This suggests that the policy to exclude people known to have a family history of CJD was already in place when this PQ was answered, and the criteria have not changed (although the means of enforcing the criteria has been strengthened). It seems to me that this might be a reasonable line to take.

I think we would need to consider very carefully at this stage before suggesting to Parly that there is a question of misleading Parliament - the prospect of raising the profile of the debate on blood transfusion and CJD will not be an appealing one to TOTO, and the Department is under pressure from the Cabinet Office to not make waves on CJD if at all possible. Certainly such action should not be taken without first consulting CMO's office.

Peter Jones  
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