

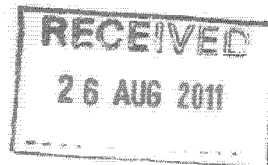
Acute Services Division

Diagnostics Directorate

rg / amcg

25th August 2011

Tracey Turnbull
Senior Solicitor
Central Legal Office
NHS National Services Scotland
Anderson House
Breadalbane Street
Bonnington Road
Edinburgh EH6 5JR



Dear Ms Turnbull

RE: THE PENROSE INQUIRY

I refer to your enquiry regarding the computer system at Glasgow Royal Infirmary in response to the queries raised in connection with the late Mrs Eileen O'Hara.

An Apple Computer System for the Blood Bank was introduced to the GRI in 1981. This system was used by the hospital until 1986 when they moved to the current Telepath Computer system.

The Apple system did not accept the SNBTS Donation number configuration; however a paper record was kept of the SNBTS Donation number and the link to the corresponding GRI laboratory number. The GRI laboratory number was the identifier that was entered into the Apple System.

The paper records which linked the GRI number to the SNBTS donation during the years 1985-86 were unfortunately destroyed in error during a laboratory move in 1995. The GRI therefore did not have the ability to trace transfused units to patients for a period of 10 years which was in keeping with guidance at the time albeit they would have planned to retain these for longer if they had not been destroyed in the move of the laboratory (the laboratory has moved at least twice in this period). Traceability still exists for the period 1981-1984 which unfortunately is outwith the period required for this patient.

Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachel H A Green". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Dr Rachel Green
Associate Medical Directorate, Diagnostics Directorate

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