

MANSFIELD COLLEGE

University of Oxford



From the Principal

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10 January 2011

Dear Mr Mair,

Penrose Inquiry – Topic Number B1 – HIV/AIDS – Higher Risk Donors – Request for witness statement

I refer to your letter, dated 23 December 2010, with a request to receive a written statement of evidence to the Penrose Inquiry, in relation to aspects of my former role in the Department of Health. I received your letter and the associated copy of the Preliminary Report, the supplementary paper and the disc today, 10 January 2011, on my return from abroad.

I had, as you say, already been contacted by Mr Hennessy, to whom I had replied, on 20 December 2010, in the following terms:

Thank you for sending me this documentation, to which I have given careful attention. I conclude that I am not in a position to assist the Inquiry in any material way, because of the passage of time (some 30 years since I had any Departmental responsibility for blood and blood products in E&W) and the fact that the Scottish NBTS and Fractionation plant were not within my areas of responsibility in the then DHSS.

Having now had an opportunity, albeit a brief one, of examining the material you sent me, including Chapter 8 of the Preliminary Report and the supplementary paper enclosed with your letter, I remain of that view.

I understand from Mr Hennessy that there is no obligation upon former Department of Health officials to provide a statement and, after careful consideration, I respectfully decline to do so.

Yours sincerely,

DR DIANA WALFORD CBE

Mr Gregor Mair,
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