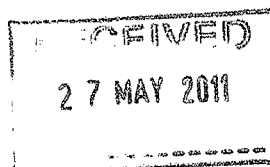


26 May 2011

Tracey Turnbull
Scottish Health Service Central Legal Office
Anderson House
Bonnington Road
Edinburgh
EH6 5JR



Dear Ms Turnbull

The Penrose Inquiry: Witness Statement re Topic B5

I shall reply to the questions in order.

- 1) I first became aware that Edinburgh haemophiliacs had been shown to be infected with HTLVIII soon after Dr Ludlam was informed of the results by Dr Tedder.
- 2) Dr Ludlam spoke to me about the results.
- 3) I do not know how Dr Ludlam was informed.

Subsequent testing.

- 1) I think testing for HTLVIII (HIV) infection started in 1985 once commercial tests became available.
- 2) All testing for patients from RIE carried out by the Hepatitis B and HTLVIII (HIV) Reference Lab within the Virus Diagnostic Service of University Department of Medical Microbiology in the Medical School, Teviot Place.
- 3) The tests used were purchased from several companies eg Abbott, Wellcome and Ortho Labs.

Storage of serum samples.

The Hepatitis B Reference Laboratory was set up at the time of the outbreak of Hepatitis B infection in the Renal Dialysis Unit patients and staff in the RIE in about 1970. Stored sera were invaluable in tracking the spread of the virus and to allow further testing with other and more sensitive tests when they became available. Patients were tested regularly to monitor that they were free from infection.

A similar approach was adopted after the recognition of HTLVIII(HIV) and a combined Hepatitis and HIV Reference Lab established in 1986.

The long term storage of serum samples submitted for HTLVIII testing was started when the reference lab was set up. Most sera submitted for general virus screening were not kept indefinitely.

Access to and use of the stored samples was a decision of the director of the lab, usually after discussion with the clinical staff responsible for the patients and with the senior lab scientists who performed the tests.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JF Peutherer', with a stylized flourish at the end.

JF Peutherer