

Mr Douglas Tullis
Solicitor
The Penrose Inquiry
44 Drumsheugh Gardens
Edinburgh
EH3 7SW

Please quote this reference

FTM-PMG/PENROSE INQUIRY/N10G0115

18 March 2011

Dear Mr Tullis

PENROSE INQUIRY- RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH BLOOD COLLECTED FROM MILITARY PERSONNEL

We refer to the above and to your letter of 1st December 2010, in particular to point 11 on page 4 which states that: "The Inquiry team does not have any information about particular risk associated with blood collected from US military personnel and would therefore be grateful if you would provide details of the evidence for that proposition." Our clients have now provided us with documents for your information relating to incidences of hepatitis and HIV/AIDS in US military personnel during the relevant time period.

The documents provided by our clients are enclosed and include the following:

1. "Viral Hepatitis: Problems of Incidence and Control in Military Personnel", Albert B. Sabin, published in the Yale Journal of Biology and Medicine issue 49, 259-266 (1976)
2. "Viral Hepatitis in the US Navy, 1975-1984", Kenneth C Hyams, Lawrence A Palinkas and Ralph G Burr, published in the American Journal of Epidemiology volume 130, No. 2 (1989)
3. "Viral Hepatitis in the US Air Force, 1980-1989", M.D. Parkinson et al, published in Vaccine, volume 11 issue 5, p. 516-517, March 1993 (Abstract).
4. Expert Advisory Group on AIDS, "HTLVIII infection, the AIDS epidemic and the control of its spread in the UK": paper prepared by the Chief Medical Office for the Secretary of State, June 1985 (see p.9, paragraph 2)
5. Minutes of a Directors' meeting of the SNBTS on the 10 December 1985 (see p.3, paragraph 2)
6. Board of Veterans' Appeals, citation no. 0531165, decision date 18/11/05 (finding of fact that veteran serving from 1978 to 1980 had contracted Hepatitis C as a result of receiving immunisations in service).

We trust that the above noted documents will provide you with sufficient information to allow you to reconsider including the acceptance of blood from US military personnel as a sub-topic under topics B1 and C1 concerning the acceptance of blood from 'higher risk' donors.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully

THOMPSONS

SBS