Dear Jack

Penrose Inquiry – Documentation Account

I am writing to thank you for the very helpful and informative meeting on 8th July and to confirm my understanding of what was agreed that day.

During the course of our discussions we ascertained that the requirement of the Penrose Team to have lists of all SNBTS documentation from 1970 to date, and not simply what might be considered relevant to the terms of reference of the Inquiry, had not been made clear to the Centre staff. I have to say that this problem was not restricted to the Lauriston Centre.

We reviewed the documentation held in both your and Sandra’s offices and agreed that Sandra would prepare lists of what was there in terms of content, volume, period covered and actual physical location.

As explained at our visit, the documentation account should be in broad terms (e.g. donor record cards for period 1970-1980 – 6 boxes – records store). Also, if documentation is held by you on a personal basis, e.g. membership of and attendance at professional organisations, then this would not be regarded as SNBTS and need not be listed.

Regarding patient confidentiality, Susan Murray noted that CLO will issue an letter making it clear that any demand from the Penrose Inquiry for documentation is a legal requirement and cannot be challenged by the GMC.

Whilst we have not been given a deadline by the Penrose Team, we are hoping to re-submit at least another interim Documentation Account by the end of July. Therefore this information is required from Regional Centres as soon as possible.

If you or any of the staff involved have any queries please contact me (0131 536 5700) or Carol Bieneck (0131 536 5701).
With thanks for your co-operation.

Yours sincerely

Neil Billing
Public Inquiry Team Co-ordinator

cc Carol Bienek
Ian Franklin