



Brian Stanton
Infected Blood Inquiry
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Thursday 16th May 2019

Dear Mr Stanton

Notice of retention/non-destruction of documents relating to the Independent Public Inquiry into Infected Blood and Blood Products (the Infected Blood Inquiry)

Thank you for your letters to the Clinical Chairs of Brighton and Hove CCG, Coastal West Sussex CCG, Crawley CCG, East Surrey CCG, Eastbourne, Hailsham and Seaford CCG, Hastings and Rother CCG, High Weald Lewes Havens CCG, and Horsham and Mid-Sussex CCG received by email on 20 March 2019. The Chairs have asked me to respond on their behalf.

I can confirm that our clinical commissioning groups will fully cooperate with the Inquiry. The CCGs will retain and refrain from destroying any documents and information held that may be of relevance to the Inquiry and we have circulated a communication to our staff to advise of the retention notice that has been issued.

We will also expedite any Subject Access or Access to Health Records Requests received in support of the Inquiry and will ensure there are no fees charged to access and obtain copies of medical records. It is not our usual practice to charge for processing Subject Access Requests.

As commissioning organisations it is unlikely that we will hold medical records as these would either be held by GP practices or by provider Trusts that we commission services from. However, we do hold records relating to Continuing Healthcare Services which can include copies of care and GP records.

We note that the Inquiry has already written to all NHS Trusts, however please can you confirm if the Inquiry has also issued retention notices to all GP practices directly or if you require us to contact the practices within our catchment area. We would be happy to do so, if this will not duplicate communications that have already been issued.

We will await your instructions in regard to this matter.

Yours faithfully

Terry Willows
Director of Corporate Governance
On behalf of the Sussex and East Surrey Clinical Commissioning Groups