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Date: 11 April 2007

Our ref: Case 84ICO

Dear Mr Ward

Freedom of Information request – The “Wells” Report

I am writing to explain that in the process of preparing for the Information Tribunal the Department reconsidered its position in respect of your Freedom of Information request made for the "Wells Report" in January 2005. The Department has undertaken a full review of the determination of the public interest in this case.

At the time of the request the Wells report was a recent document, and concerned current changes in policy of the Department of Health. It was the opinion of the Department that the release of the report so close to the time of the review itself would prejudice any future reviews which might be conducted by the Department into the economy, efficiency and effectiveness of sponsored bodies. The Department has re-evaluated the public interest in withholding the Wells report at this time.

It is the opinion of the Department of Health that the likelihood of prejudice is more remote than in 2005, and that the public interest now favours the release of the report (delivered by Sir William Wells in two parts) enclosed.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Jill Moorcroft', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Jill Moorcroft
Freedom of Information Unit Head

*date pub
Parline*