

From: [Thompson, Robert](#)
To: [Pat Pilgrim](#); susangillam@westernhealth.nl.ca; boyd.rowe@lghealth.ca;
Subject: Central key messages
Date: June-30-08 12:07:55 PM

FYI

Robert Thompson
Secretary to Cabinet (Health Issues),
Chair, Task Force on Adverse Health Events
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709.682.8946 (c)

From: McGrath, Karen [<mailto:Karen.McGrath@centralhealth.nl.ca>]
Sent: Monday, June 30, 2008 11:53 AM
To: Thompson, Robert
Subject: Re: Dr. Mullen

Robert

In discussion with our pathologists here are our key messages

- no slide sent to Mt Sinai not reported
- we send large number of slides out to large centres incl large academic centres with no issues identified
- no communication to Central Health at any time from Mt Sinai re quality of fixation
- most importantly Dr Mullen has himself said that this has not compromised any result

We have been asked by CBC for an Interview and it is likely that one of our pathologists will be speaking to this in a couple of days

Karen

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----- Original Message -----

From: Thompson, Robert <rthompson@gov.nl.ca>
To: susangillam@westernhealth.nl.ca <susangillam@westernhealth.nl.ca>; McGrath,

Karen; boyd.rowe@lghealth.ca <boyd.rowe@lghealth.ca>
Cc: Furlong, Tara <tarafurlong@gov.nl.ca>
Sent: Mon Jun 30 09:37:23 2008
Subject: Dr. Mullen

Here is the testimony from Dr. Mullen which lends some balance to the quality issue. While earlier in the day he reported some quality problems, he later confirm that his reports on these slides from all regions are reliable.

I suspect you are all receiving media inquiries, as is the Minister. We would appreciate receiving your key messages so that we clearly understand how this is being addressed.

Robert

MR. SIMMONS :

7 Q. And the other cases , the group , large group of
8 cases you've spoke about are the what you've
9 called the prospective cases which are the ,
10 I'll think of them as the new -

11 DR. MULLEN :

12 A. The go forward , yes.

13 MR. SIMMONS :

14 Q. The new cases , the go forward ones that you
15 began to look at from August of 2005 and for
16 three of the health authorities in
17 Newfoundland you continue to review - - have
18 continued to review up until recently?

19 DR. MULLEN :

20 A. Yes. Yes , that's right. Central , Labrador ,
21 Grenfell and Western.

22 MR. SIMMONS :

23 Q. And Western?

24 DR. MULLEN :

25 A. Yes.

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1 MR. SIMMONS :

2 Q. Right. And the same questions for those , we

3 have no reason to , in any way , doubt any -

4 DR. MULLEN :

5 A. No.

6 MR. SIMMONS :

7 Q. - of those results that you've reported back

8 from Mount Sinai?

9 DR. MULLEN :

10 A. No. I use the same standards that I would

11 report to any other.

12 MR. SIMMONS :

13 Q. Right. So even though you've told us that at

14 the beginning of this process in August '05

15 you were seeing some issues with fixation and

16 processing and you still see some occasional
17 issues with it today , that should not cause us
18 to doubt the reliability of those test reports
19 in any way?

20 DR. MULLEN :

21 A. No.

22 MR. SIMMONS :

23 Q. Good. Okay. Eastern Health started retesting
24 its own samples in about February , March of
25 2007?

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1 DR. MULLEN :

2 A. Yes.

3 MR. SIMMONS :

4 Q. So if I understand correctly , up until
5 probably last week between that time ,
6 February , March of '07 and very recently the
7 only ER/PR samples that you would have had

8 stained at your laboratory and looked at
9 yourself would be the quality assurance
10 samples that were sent from Eastern Health?

11 DR. MULLEN :

12 A. From Eastern Health , yes.

13 MR. SIMMONS :

14 Q. Right. The other authorities continued to
15 send their own samples?

16 DR. MULLEN :

17 A. Yes , that is correct.

18 MR. SIMMONS :

19 Q. Yes. And when looking at those quality
20 assurance samples would you assess the quality
21 of the fixation and processing -

22 DR. MULLEN :

23 A. Yes. If -

24 MR. SIMMONS :

25 Q. - as part of that process?

1 DR. MULLEN :

2 A. If you recall the spreadsheet that I use for
3 my standard reporting , the ER - - the tumor type
4 ER/PR , internal control , fixation , processing ,
5 it was exactly the same.

6 MR. SIMMONS :

7 Q. Right. And if there were any problems with
8 fixation and processing of those samples , you
9 would report them back to Eastern Health?

10 DR. MULLEN :

11 A. Yes , that is correct.

12 MR. SIMMONS :

13 Q. And have you had to report back any issues in
14 relation to those with the QA samples?

15 DR. MULLEN :

16 A. No. No , there were 39 samples and I don't
17 believe I've reported.

Robert Thompson

Secretary to Cabinet (Health Issues),

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