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To: Crawley, Brian; Matthews, Elizabeth; Moira Hennessey; Tansy Mundon; Wiseman, Ross
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Talked to George and Heather Predham.

The key question is whether the Eastern Health statements that all patients were contacted in October 2005 is accurate.

The short answer is that every patient who they had identified for retesting by October 2005 was contacted by telephone at that time.

The long answer is that Eastern Health was reasonably confident at that time that it had identified everyone in the province that needed retesting. The procedures to compile the list included using various databases inside Eastern Health, and calling other health boards to obtain files and samples from their own records. By October 2005 they felt a comprehensive list was in hand. However, in actual fact, there was still some flux in the list. For example, some samples were for the same person, so it drove the number of cases down. Some additional results came in from St. Anthony late, which drove the numbers up. Some people responded to the advertisement that had not been picked up in the various lists, and this also drove up the numbers. These upward and downward adjustments occurred after October 2005 and it is possible, Eastern Health admits, that some of these people were not called.

Another reason why some people were not phoned is that their results were already back from Mount Sinai and had been transmitted to their oncologists. Given that these oncologists were already meeting with these patients, the phone call was seen as unnecessary, yet some of these patients may not understand why a phone call was not made. (Heather says that Gerri Rogers falls into this category.)

Given that the process was non-routine and fast-paced, exact totals at each stage were not kept, so the exact counts each day cannot be reported now. The final total of living people who were retested was 763, and this number was first reported (according to Heather) in December 2006. They cannot report to us now what the number was in October 2005 and how much it oscillated in the following months, though the numbers are small.

In conclusion, we are informed by Eastern Health that all people who had been identified for re-tests by October 2005 were called in October 2005, except for some people whose results were already back from Mount Sinai. Some more people (though we are told it was a small number) were identified after October 2005 and may not have been called. It is unfortunate that Eastern Health did not raise these qualifications in their media briefings because it leaves the impression that 100% of the 763 re-tested patients were called, when in actual fact there is some degree of variation from this absolute level. Furthermore, the total of 763 was not known in October 2005; it was first used in December 2006.

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