

6th June 1984

Mr. David Alton, M.P.,
The House of Commons,
LONDON SW1A 0AA.

Dear Mr. Alton,

I have received from Dr. Britten a copy of the NRPB's protocol for the study of the health of the UK servicemen and civilians present in Australia and the South Pacific during the nuclear weapon tests in 1952-58. He asks for comments to be sent to you.

On the face of it the NRPB protocol seems adequate although if they are a "quango" reporting to the government can it be certain that all the results will be published? I have only a few specific comments:-

1. Although it might be difficult, I feel some attempt should be made to probe beyond the death certificate for "cause of death". Some primary cancers are notoriously under-diagnosed as causes of death.

2. The morbidity study appears to only cover cancer registrations. Would it be possible (certainly advantageous) to cover other diseases which might be radiation-linked, e.g. cataracts?

3. At the time of the tests it is apparent that a number of Australian servicemen were closely involved in monitoring, etc. Would it not be possible to extend the study to include these people?

Yours sincerely,

B. E. Lambert

cc: Dr. Britten