

AS:FP

10th May, 1968.

Mr. J. Verberne,  
Psychologist,  
Parkville Psychiatric Unit,  
Poplar Road,  
PARKVILLE.

Dear Mr. Verberne, *File*

In reply to your letter of 3rd May, I cannot see that there is any risk involved in the use of electrical stimulation for behavioural therapy, other than gross negligence. In regard to negligence, this is a matter which has to be treated legally on its merits, and no legal protection can be afforded by the Government in such cases.

The selection and supervision of cases has to be the primary responsibility of a qualified medical practitioner and he should regularly keep the case under review.

If patients are being used for research purposes, it is necessary for one to have an adequate account of the protocols of the research. The medical practitioner in charge of the case should ensure that the patient is fully aware of what is being undertaken and, in the case of a minor, the guardian or nearest relative should be consulted.

I trust this presents the picture as both Dr. Oldmeadow and I see it. Dr. Ball has been informed of the request and a copy of this letter has been sent to him.

Yours sincerely,

ALAN STOLLER.