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To Vice-President/Deans, Heads of Schools  
From Dr Melanie Taylor, University Safety Advisor  
Date 25<sup>th</sup> April 2007  
cc Prof M Case, Prof S Turner, Dr S A Robson, Dr D Barker,  
School Biological Safety Advisors & Safety Representatives  
Reference Circular 5/2007

## Health & safety in shared laboratories and biosecurity

### Shared Laboratories – message from Professor Maynard Case

“I was asked by the President to evaluate whether safety risks in large, open-plan research laboratories are being adequately assessed. To this end, visits to several areas were undertaken with members of Health and Safety Services during December 2006.

To maintain a consistent and high standard across the University, I asked Health and Safety Services to use the survey findings to prepare a best practice guidance note on the management of open plan laboratories. This is now available at [http://www.campus.manchester.ac.uk/healthandsafety/CoPs&Guidance/open\\_plan\\_labs.pdf](http://www.campus.manchester.ac.uk/healthandsafety/CoPs&Guidance/open_plan_labs.pdf) and I expect Heads of Schools with groups occupying open plan laboratories to promulgate this, and develop suitable actions plans to address any shortfalls in safety management. Progress in this area will be recorded in appropriate faculty monitoring / audit reports.

Further advice and guidance can be obtained from Dr Patrick Seechurn on matters relating to biological and GM safety, and from your usual University Safety Co-ordinator.

Prof Maynard Case  
Associate Vice-President for Compliance”

### Changes to the Anti-Terrorism Crime and Security Act

The list of agents covered by the Anti-Terrorism Crime and Security Act is in the process of being changed and a new survey is being undertaken to determine if any specified material included in the revised schedule 5 is being held or used at this University. Dr Seechurn is contacting local BSOs directly to collate the required information and once the survey has been completed the Home Office will be informed of any relevant changes.

Dr Melanie Taylor  
University Safety Advisor