Dear Mr Del Bon,

We thank you for your notification of the case 2004-0269 on records of sick leave. After thorough examination of this case, we have decided not to prior check this case at the present time. Indeed as mentioned in the information received, the data are processed by the European Parliament for the European Ombudsman. Since we have reasons to believe that processing of sick leave records by the European Parliament as concerns staff of the Ombudsman does not differ from the processing of such data for their own staff, we prefer to deal with this case when we prior check the European Parliament's processing operations concerning sick leave records. We will of course inform the Ombudsman of the outcome of the prior check.

Furthermore, since the European Ombudsman will take over the processing operations concerning sick leave records as from January 2006, the European Data Protection Supervisor prefers to examine the case as a proper prior checking case at that time. On this point, may I take this opportunity to remind you to provide sufficient time for examination of the case by the EDPS before the start of the processing operation? Indeed article 27.4 provides for a time frame of at least two months within which the EDPS must render his opinion.

We thank you for your collaboration.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Joaquin BAYO DELGADO

Cc: Mr J.Steele, Data Protection Officer of the European Parliament