From: Agent Robert Hode

To: Assistant Director Skinner

Subject: Updated briefing for Case Number #BD1347

Upon receipt of new information a secondary review of this case was ordered. Our findings are outlined below.

Summary:
For roughly 100 years scientists have claimed that the medieval Black Death was a case of Bubonic Plague. This was “proven” by comparing the medieval accounts to modern outbreaks of the Plague. Since Bubonic Plague is caused by fleas on rats it has been assumed that the Black Death was caused by the same factor. You will find this stated as fact in most modern sources.

However, recent evidence has led some to question that theory. The truth is we simply cannot state with 100% certainty what caused the Black Death.

The Theories:
It is still very possible that the Black Death was Bubonic Plague spread by rats. However, if that is not the case we do have some other options to investigate. The doctors of the Medieval period believed the disease was caused by a “miasma” which is, in modern language, bad air. They didn’t understand the concept of germs at the time but this may give us a clue. The most common explanation of the time, however, was that the disease was a punishment from God. Though this may sound ridiculous we have certainly seen stranger things and the evidence is there to support the theory.

Threat Level: Very High
Determining the cause of this disease is very important. If the Black Death was not Bubonic Plague we need to find out. We need to be ready to act if this disease returns. There are many reasons why this may not be Black Death so take this investigation very seriously. We do not want to cause a panic in the people so this investigation should remain classified.