

Falconer S (Sandra)

From: Stock RG (Bob)
Sent: 05 April 2002 08:45
To: Minister for Health and Community Care; Deputy Minister (Henry) for Health and Community Care
Cc: Deputy Minister (Mulligan) for Health and Community Care; PS/HD Health; Robson G (Godfrey); Whittle P (Pam); Falconer S (Sandra); Milligen M (Moir); Keel A (Aileen); Naldrett CA (Chris); Beaton P (Peter)
Subject: HCV in Blood - Pressure for Public Enquiry in England

I received a warning yesterday from my opposite number in DH(E) that they are under a lot of parliamentary pressure to hold a public enquiry into the circumstances surrounding contamination of blood with HCV in the 1980s. This is partly being fuelled by pressure from the Haemophilia Groups Forum but also from Lord Owen - who continues to allege that funds ear-marked by him for compensating the affected patients were 'misappropriated' and that there is a cover up on the part of officials.

DH(E) are giving consideration to setting up some lesser status enquiry (maybe internal or independent external) in an attempt to avoid being forced into a public enquiry.

I have told them that a public enquiry is not an issue in Scotland at the moment due to the H&CC Committee's rejection of the petition calling for such an enquiry - but that this is potentially a temporary situation and that pressure for an enquiry could re-emerge if the conclusions of the Expert Group on Financial Support Arrangements do not provide some sort of financial arrangement that benefit the 'HCV in blood' victims.

Bob Stock
Health Planning & Quality

GRO-C