

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SECURITY

Alexander Fleming House, Elephant & Castle, London SEI 6BY
Telephone 01-407 5522

From the Joint Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

Albert D Angel Esq Managing Director Merck, Sharp & Dohme Ltd Hertford Road Hoddesdon Herts EN11 9BH

4. 8. 82

Dear the Angel

As Kenneth Clarke is out of the office at present I am replying to your letter of 13 July about your new Hepatitis B vaccine.

We recognise that our decision must have been disappointing to you and we are grateful to you for letting us know how the company propose to manage the marketing of a limited supply in the United Kingdom.

As you clearly appreciate, the Government has difficult choices to make in deciding the allocation of limited NHS resources. For our part, we are aware of the interest of the Industry in this field and are appreciative of the approach which you have felt able to take on this occasion.

Jour since ly

GRO-C

LORD TREFGARNE