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Mark Lazarowicz MP

09 JUL 2003

Dear Mark,

Thank you for your letter of 5 February to Alan Milburn enclosing letters from your constituent **GRO-A** of **GRO-A** Edinburgh, about people with haemophilia who were infected with Hepatitis C through infected NHS blood products. I apologise for the delay in replying.

In his letters, Mr **GRO-A** has referred to minutes of blood bank meetings from the 1970s to 1982 and also a research report on Haemophilia patients from 1979 to 1982, all of which he says are held in the House of Commons Library. Based on the information supplied by Mr **GRO-A** officials have requested these documents from the Library but have been advised that without more precise information the Library is unable to find papers. I have noted the enclosures from Mr **GRO-A** but these appear to be extracts from documents of a later period.

Whilst the Government does not want to withhold any information, unfortunately this request is far too general. We would, however, be happy to make a further request to the Commons library if Mr **GRO-A** can provide more specific information about the documents held there.

Mr **GRO-A** has also referred, in his letter, to a public inquiry into this issue. The position remains that the facts have been set out clearly on many occasions through debates in both Houses, at meetings with Department of Health Ministers and in correspondence.

Whilst the Government has great sympathy for those infected with hepatitis C, and has considered the call for a public inquiry very carefully, we do not consider that such an inquiry is merited.

Best wishes,

GRO-C

MELANIE JOHNSON