

Sent on 19/4/00

POH(6)1697/1250

Your ref: GLR/KW/22.4

Thank you for your letter of 25 February about people with haemophilia and hepatitis C.

You asked for advice as to whether you could release to Ministers extracts from Departmental files which had been released to you in the HIV case.

We have sought the views of our legal advisers, who advise that although there is a convention about papers of a previous administration being seen by a subsequent one, this does not apply to litigation. Their view is that in releasing papers to Ministers, you would not be in breach of your undertaking.

PHILIP HUNT