



THE SCOTTISH OFFICE

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*Copy to Dr Reynan
MS A. Towner*

26 September 1995

Dear Christopher

"LOOKBACK" ON NON HAEMOPHILIAC RECIPIENTS OF DEFIX

You wrote to me some considerable time ago on the question of extending the current Hepatitis C transfusion lookback exercise to cover DeFix. As you know, I raised the matter at the last meeting of the Hepatitis C Lookback Working Party, and I wanted to see the actual minutes of that meeting before replying formally to you. These have only just come into my possession! They confirm what I have already told you verbally. There was general agreement that extending the lookback to DeFix would be logistically extremely difficult. It was pointed out that there are no computerised records, and therefore the exercise would require a search of manual records involving skilled staff. It was also pointed out that most of the DeFix used would have been for anticoagulant reversal, and that those anticoagulants would have been short term, eg for treatment of DVT. Such patients are therefore likely to have been lost to consultant care, which would make tracing them virtually impossible.

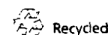
You indicated to me recently that the Scottish Haemophilia Directors are likely to disagree with the Working Party's view in this area. We agreed that the only way of testing the feasibility of extending the lookback to DeFix would be to conduct a pilot study, as suggested in your original letter. However, given the fact that Jack Gillon did not dissent from the Working Party's view, he may require some considerable persuasion to undertake such a pilot study locally. Nonetheless, you may feel that it is worthwhile trying to persuade him.

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The next meeting of the Working Party is on 13 October, and as promised, I will once again register your views on this subject.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely

GRO-C

DR A KEEL

Senior Medical Officer

Copy to: Dr Jeremy Metters
DCMO
Chairman , MSBT DH