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From the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Public Health
Hazel Blears MP



file BLO 1

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05 JUN 2003

Dear Alf,

Thank you for your letter of 22 January to Alan Milburn enclosing correspondence from Louella Houldcroft of *The Journal* about the allegations that many haemophilia patients were tested for hepatitis C without their knowledge or consent. I am very sorry for the delay in replying.

I am grateful to you for raising this issue. Since we received your letter, we have given careful consideration to the allegations in *The Journal*, and have begun to make our own enquiries. Department of Health officials have been in touch with the General Medical Council (GMC) and clinicians. However, as you may know the GMC has also received these complaints and has announced that they are conducting their own investigation looking into the actions of doctors responsible for the treatment of blood-borne diseases. It would therefore be inappropriate for me to comment on the substance of the allegations while the GMC investigation is underway.

GRO-C

MS HAZEL BLEARS