

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

52283 & 52338	2010/2011
Commons Ordinary Written	

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Colne Valley of 30 March 2011, Official Report, columns 399-400W, on blood: contamination, what criteria he used to determine the 31 March 2011 deadline; and for what reasons no consultation was held before the deadline was decided.

&

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, if he will review the need for any deadline date to be set for widows to register an interest in compensation schemes for those infected with hepatitis C as a result of NHS treatment.

Target Date:	04/05/2011
For Answer on:	26/04/2011
Notice Paper Date:	06/04/2011
Notice Paper Page:	5566
MP (Party):	Paul Goggins (Labour)

DRAFT REPLY TO REACH PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH BY

12:00 08/04/2011

ANNE MULTON
14/4

Background

These are two of a series of 10 PQs asked by the MP.

The issue of the deadline is a major issue for the campaigners. Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland did not place a deadline on applications for pre-2003 payments, but given that they only announced their intentions in March, it was not feasible for them to set the same 31 March deadline.

The Skipton Fund has indicated that so far it has received two late registrations so far, both of whom have been in hospital since 10 January 2011.

Official Report, 30 Mar 2011 : Column 399W

Jason McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will assess the merits of allowing those who are newly-eligible for compensation for contaminated blood to claim funds from the Skipton Fund on an ongoing basis instead of imposing a deadline of 31 March 2011; [49412]

(2) whether he undertook any consultation before establishing a deadline of 31 March 2011 for claims by those newly-eligible for compensation in respect of contaminated blood to claim funds from the Skipton Fund; [49430]

(3) if he will extend the deadline for claimants of compensation for contaminated blood to the Skipton Fund in cases where it can be demonstrated that it was not possible to make claimants aware of new arrangements within the time allowed; [49431]

(4) for what reasons he established a deadline of 31 March 2011 for claims to the Skipton Fund by those affected by contaminated blood. [49432]

Anne Milton: When the deadline of 31 March 2011 was announced 10 January 2011, it gave potential claimants 12 weeks to register their intention to make a claim with the Skipton Fund. It is not essential for claimants to obtain all of the necessary evidence to support their claim by that date. The deadline was decided without consultation. Due to the uncertainty of how many applications there may be in respect of those who died pre-2003, we will not know by 31 March 2011 whether all claims have come forward. However, the Skipton Fund will consider registrations that are made after 31 March 2011, on a case by case basis, where there is a valid reason for the applicant to have missed the registration deadline.