

Witness Name: Jason Jonathan Evans

Statement No: WITN1210008

Exhibits: WITN1210009-036

Dated: February 2020

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

EXHIBIT WITN1210009

referred, has informed our thinking, but there has never been a public consultation on any aspect of scheme reform. No Government have done that before, so this will be the first time that any formal public consultation has been undertaken.

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(Citation: HC Deb, 9 September 2015, c87WH)



Mark Durkan

Social Democratic and Labour Party, Foyle

Will the [Minister](#) (/glossary/?gl=35) [give way](#) (/glossary/?gl=176)?

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[In context](#) (/whall/?id=2015-09-09a.80.0#g87.2)

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(http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmhansrd/cm150909/halltext/150909h0001.htm#150909h0001.htm_spnew88)
(Citation: HC Deb, 9 September 2015, c87WH)



Jane Ellison

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health

No. I will touch on the issue of drugs, and if there is time afterwards, I will take another [intervention](#) (/glossary/?gl=39).

Many Members are aware that a new generation of promising drug treatments is emerging that has the potential to offer an effective cure for many patients with hepatitis C. The [National Institute for Health and Care Excellence](#) (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Institute_for_Health_and_Care_Excellence) issued guidance recommending two

of the drugs earlier this year, and those are now routinely available on the NHS for eligible patients. [NICE](#) (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NICE>) is developing guidance on three further treatments and has recently consulted on draft guidance. [NHS England](#) (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NHS_England) announced in June that it has made £190 million available this year so that patients with confirmed cirrhosis from hepatitis C can benefit from the new treatment options. In previous debates, I have offered advice to Members on how constituents who are worried that they are not getting access to those options, yet meet the clinical guidelines, can get access. In particular, it is important that patients to talk to their hepatologist.

We estimate that around 550 individuals infected with hepatitis C through historical treatment with NHS-supplied blood and blood products can now access the new treatments under the NHS's interim commissioning policies. As the [Secretary of State](#) (/glossary/?gl=23) committed to on 25 March, the [Department of Health](#) (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Department_of_Health) is continuing to work to bring transparency to the matter of infected blood. The documents covering the period from 1970 to 1985 have been published in line with the [Freedom of Information Act](#) (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freedom_of_Information_Act), and are available on the National Archives website. The Department is completing the transfer of the documents that we hold for 1986 to 1995 to the National Archives. Once those have been handed over, the National Archives will need to take the records on to its systems and make

them available on its "Discovery" website. As to the precise date, we had hoped that it would be this summer, but for technical reasons the National Archives has indicated that it anticipates the documents being made available on its website after the January 2016 releases. I stress that that is only for technical reasons associated with the transfer of the documents.

I appreciate the House's frustration and I am sorry that I will not be able to let the hon. Member for [South Down](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Down) (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Down) back in to respond at the end. I understand the sense of urgency and the need for change. In hoping to reach a conclusion as soon as is practicable, I have, through [Diana Johnson](#) (/mp/?p=11647), offered parliamentarians a meeting ahead of the consultation so that I can hear their concerns and suggestions and so that they can contribute to shaping scheme reform.

Motion lapsed (Standing Order No. 10(6)).

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Sitting suspended.

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