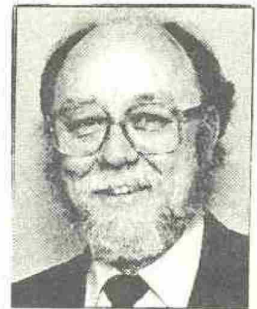


Heywood
Middleton
Castleton
Norden & Bamford



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA



Lord Hunt of Kings Heath
The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Lords)
Department of Health

9 5 01

Dear Lord Hunt,

I write in support of the victims of HCV contracted through the transfusion of contaminated blood and blood products imported into the UK mainly from America. I worked in the NHS as a medical scientist dealing with infectious diseases. I have a virology qualification and have had some experience of transfusion techniques.

Sterility has always been an essential ingredient of all blood products used in transfusion. Every precaution should always be taken to eliminate potential infection. The fact that a test was available in Europe in the 80s and not used to screen blood products in this country was in my opinion negligence by the transfusion service in the UK in failing to upgrade their screening procedures. It does appear that government officials knew of the risks involved. For me it is a straightforward case of inadequate testing, when acceptable procedures were available. The recent court decision in favour of compensation for victims of Hepatitis C is a precursor to the just campaign to compensate the 4,800 victims of HCV transfusion infection. I am convinced that the European Courts will in time rule in their favour. I support their cause and suggest that the Government should set up an independent inquiry to see that justice is done on behalf of victims facing years of suffering through no fault of their own.

Yours sincerely,

GRO-C

Jim Dobbin MP

JIM DOBBIN MP

Heywood and Middleton

Reply to -- Pat Dobbin

Parliamentary Secretary

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

Telephone: GRO-C Fax 0207 219 2696