

ANNEX B



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Dear John

Rely⁺On Prion Inactivator

Thank you for your letter of 29 May to Dr Harper, about the development of the Rely⁺On Prion Inactivator by D-Gen Limited and DuPont. He has asked me to reply as he is leaving shortly on a foreign business trip and wanted to ensure you received a prompt response.

We agree with you that Prion inactivation agents are an exciting field of development, and the Department is closely following these developments with interest. I appreciate your offer to come and brief us on Rely⁺On. However Departmental colleagues have already met with representatives of D Gen to discuss the product and the evidence produced in its support, and I have been fully briefed by them.

I understand that Rely⁺On is, in accordance with SEAC's July 2006 advice, to be reviewed by the Rapid Review Panel on 19 June along with other similar products. The use of prion inactivation agents, including Rely⁺On, will also be considered by the Department of Health's Engineering and Science Advisory Committee into the decontamination of surgical instruments including prion removal. Amongst the key issues to be considered are how decontamination using these products can be incorporated into the current decontamination cycle and be supported by some form of quality control system to ensure that the products are effective in practice in a clinical setting. I look forward to hearing these groups' assessments.

I am copying this letter to Professor Sir Liam Donaldson, Barry Cockcroft, Professor Sally Davies and Dr Harper.

Yours sincerely

Liz Woodeson
Director of Health Protection