

**"Re: final statement"**

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Kim Norman

13/12/2005 16:01

Coppel/COMMS/DOH/GB@GRO-C

To: Sophie

cc:

Liz.Reynolds@GRO-C, William Connon/PD-PMD/DOH/GB@GRO-C

bcc:

Subject: Re: final

statement

Thanks Sophie, this looks fine now

Kim

Sophie Coppel

Sophie Coppel

13/12/2005 15:57

To: Norman/PH6/DOH/GB@GRO-C

Kim

cc: Liz.Reynolds@GRO-C, William Connon/PD-PMD/DOH/GB@GRO-C

Subject:

final statement

Thought it would be easier to give you a clean copy of the final statement including your comments.

If you are happy with it then I will send up to Private Office to inform them that we are

sending this to the BBC from a DH spokesperson.

"We are aware that during the 1970s, blood products were sourced from so called 'skid row' donors in the US. These imported blood products from the US contained plasma pooled from many thousands of donors, which was normal practice at the time.. Only one donation needs to carry the virus to infect the whole batch. Donor screening for hepatitis C was introduced in the UK in 1991 and this marked a major advance in microbiological technology, which could not have been implemented before this time.

"An ex-gratia payment is available to every person who was alive on the 29 August 2003 and whose hepatitis C infection was due to NHS treatment with blood or blood products received before September 1991. These payments aim to help alleviate the suffering of people living with inadvertent hepatitis C infection.

"We are aware that some people would like the Government to set up a public inquiry into this issue. We have great sympathy for those infected with hepatitis C and have considered the call for a public inquiry very carefully. However, the Government does not accept that any wrongful practices were employed and, therefore, there is no justification for a public inquiry"

Sophie Coppel
Press Officer
Public Health Minister - Caroline Flint
Department of Health Media Centre
Richmond House
79 Whitehall
GRO-C