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The Rt Hon the Lord Morris of Manchester QO QSO House of Lords Westminster London SW1A 0PW

July 2002 کا

Dear Lord Morris,

I understand that you telephoned the Office recently in relation to a letter which you had sent to Sir Michael on 11 December last year. I subsequently spoke with your Private Secretary who said that you were concerned that you had received no reply.

I am afraid that I can only confirm that no reply had been sent. It appears that the need for a response had been overlooked. That was completely unacceptable and I offer my most sincere apologies for that oversight.

Your letter of 11 December enclosed copies of exchanges of correspondence between the Rt Hon the Lord Owen CH, Lord Hunt and yourself relating to blood products for people with haemophilia. Lord Owen himself subsequently wrote to Sir Michael in March of this year and I replied on 1 July, explaining why the Ombudsman was still unable to intervene in the matter. Lord Owen wrote again on 15 July querying a point in my letter, to which I have replied today.

I understand from your Private Secretary that Lord Owen has been copying you into those exchanges. In light of that, I am not sure what I can helpfully add, in response to your letter, to what has already been said on the matter. However, if there is anything in my replies to Lord Owen, or indeed anything in the correspondence between Sir Michael's predecessor and Lord Owen relating to the Ombudsman's powers which is not clear or which you would like me to explain further, then please do not hesitate to contact me.

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Christine Conjgan Director of Investigations



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