

**"RE: Health Hot Issues"**

Document Type:	Formal
File Title:	GHP - Blood Policy - Haemophilia - Haemophilia Campaign
File Reference:	GHP/005/006/032 Vol 2
Protective Marking:	No Marking
Filed by:	Zubeda Seedat/PH6/DOH/GB on 09/09/2008 at 14:58
Created by:	Charles Lister on 09/09/2008 at 14:58

**Named Security Prior To Moving To Archive:**

Who can edit?	Nobody
Who has edited?	Zubeda Seedat/PH6/DOH/GB
Who can read?	All readers of the document database

**Modification History Prior To Moving To Archive:**

Modified Date and Time	Details
18/08/2009 14:57	Modified registered file
08/02/2012 15:48	Refiled from GHP/005/006/032 to GHP/005/006/032 Vol 2

Charles Lister/PH6/DOH/GB  
19/03/2003 12:46

To: Jill Taylor/PH6/DOH/GB [GRO-C] Zubeda  
Seedat/PH1/DOH/GB [GRO-C]  
cc  
bcc  
Subject: RE: Health Hot Issues

----- Forwarded by Charles Lister/PH6/DOH/GB on 19/03/2003 12:45 -----

Bob Stock [GRO-C]  
[GRO-C]  
19/03/2003 12:29

To:  
ps/hd.health [GRO-C]  
cc:  
Minister for Health and Community Care [GRO-C]  
Deputy Minister McAveety for Health and Community Care [GRO-C]  
[GRO-C]  
Deputy Minister Mulligan for Health and Community Care [GRO-C]  
i.gov.uk, Aileen.Keel [GRO-C]  
Sandra.Falconer [GRO-C]  
Simon.Stockwell [GRO-C]  
Fiona.Hamilton [GRO-C] Charles  
Lister/PH6/DOH/GB [GRO-C]  
Subject: RE: Health Hot  
Issues

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

This email and any files transmitted with it are intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

Brix on vCJD and Hep C Compensation up to date (revised in the case of Hep C). I also attach a new briX note covering the call for a public enquiry into circumstances surrounding 'Hep C from Blood'.

Bob Stock  
Health Planning & Quality  
46913

<<Hep C from Blood - Call for public enquiry>>

-----Original Message-----

**From:** PS/HD Health

**Sent:** 17 March 2003 15:31

**To:** Rintoul JK (Julie); Eales S (Shaun); Stock RG (Bob); Christie P (Peter) Dr; Carmichael DS (Scott); McKay C (Colin); Robertson J (John); Burnett B (Brenda); Brown CL (Colin)(Health Department); Brown J (Joe); MacKenzie HM (Hector); Cook C (Colin); Telfer J (Jill)

**Subject:** Health Hot Issues

**Importance:** High

I would be grateful if you could prepare **or update** hot issue brix notes on the following

**Scott** - Press Health have mentioned it would be useful to have the Hospital Cleaning/Hygiene note updated to cover the particular point about bed spacing

Julie Rintoul	Closure of Leslie House and Cockenzie House
Shaun	Care Home Fees
Bob	Blood Donors with vCJD
	Compensation for Hep C
Dr Christie	CJD Incident Panel
Scott	Hospital Cleaning/Hygiene
	Private cardiac surgery in Aberdeen
Colin	Mental Health (Scotland) Bill
John	Waiting Times and Waiting Lists
	Outpatient Waiting Times
	Waiting Times in Accident and Emergency
	Deferred Waiting Lists
	Golden Jubilee National Hospital
	Waiting Times Guarantee Exemption Codes
Brenda	Consultants Contracts
Jill	Key Facts for FM
Colin	48 Hour Access

Joe                      Fluoridation - publication of Towards Better Oral Health in  
Children  
Hector                Delay in Publication of Patients Charter  
Colin                  Use of Cocaine & Crack Cocaine  
                         Primary Care Prescribing - Drugs Bill Issues

Please ensure they are updated / drafted and posted in the brix folder and  
notify me that this has been done by 1pm Wednesday 19 March

Thanks  
Jillian

Message-ID: <60119C75232CD51183DB000629387C34352CC3[REDACTED]GRO-C  
[REDACTED]GRO-C  
From: Bob.Stock[REDACTED]GRO-C  
To:  
Subject: Hep C from Blood - Call for public enquiry  
Date: Wed, 19 Mar 2003 12:19:29 -0000  
Importance: high  
X-Priority: 1  
Return-Receipt-To: Bob.Stock[REDACTED]GRO-C  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.2653.19)  
Content-Type: multipart/alternative;                boundary="----  
\_=\_NextPart\_003\_01C2EE13.26F12F48"

## HEP C FROM BLOOD - CALL FOR A PUBLIC ENQUIRY

### Accusations & Criticisms

- There is a government conspiracy to cover up negligent actions by officials and clinicians in the 1980s.

### Rebuttal lines to take

- No reason to believe that anyone acted wrongly in the light of the facts that were available to them at the time.
- A public enquiry at this stage would achieve little in terms of addressing the current situation of the people affected. Given the passage of time, gathering reliable evidence would be a difficult, lengthy and expensive process.
- Some of the key issues petitioners want investigated are likely to involve bodies that are outside Scotland.

### Facts, statistics & background

- Prior to the availability of appropriate safety measures, patients were infected with HCV as a result of receiving blood transfusions, tissue or blood products from the NHS (mostly in the 1980s). Once the virus was identified, a test was developed and used to screen all UK blood donations.
- Some blood products were imported from the US allegedly carried a much higher risk of HCV. All imported products were licensed by the predecessor of the MCA (Medicines Control Agency).
- Some people also believe that non-specific screening tests should have been used - even though they were fairly unreliable.
- Petitions Committee have decided to refer a petition from **GRO-A** (on behalf of the Scottish Haemophilia Groups Forum) to the Health Committee. It calls for an independent public enquiry and proper compensation (at the level provided in Eire - £200k).
- Health Committee convenor has said the Committee is "unanimously sympathetic to the idea of a public enquiry"
- Health Committee has already produced its "Report on Hepatitis C" following consideration of two previous petitions calling for compensation and a public enquiry. Their report rejected the call for an enquiry it felt little would be achieved and because of doubts about old evidence. Committee felt more important to provide financial support.
- Only issues specific to Scotland are whether screening of donations and heat treatment of blood products were introduced as soon as they could have been. SE carried out an investigation into the Heat Treatment issue which showed no unnecessary delay - conclusion accepted by Committee.
- MCA falls within reserved jurisdiction. Any proper enquiry would have to consider the wider UK context and the actions of Whitehall Departments. This would need to be agreed with the UK government.

#### Potential Pitfalls and other sensitivities

- Do not say donation screening was introduced as soon as possible - just quickly (there was a slight delay)
- The issues of compensation and access to medical records link to the call for a public enquiry - see briX "Compensation For 'Hepatitis C From Blood' Patients" and "Haemophiliacs - Access to Medical Records"

**Lead Minister(s):** Minister for Health & Community Care

**Contact:** Bob Stock, Health Planning & Quality

- 46913

**Last review:** 1200 19 March 2003

**Next Review:** 25 March 2003