



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

NO ATTACHMENTS  
DEPT OF HEALTH  
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25 OCT 2007

CORRESPONDENCE  
PRIVATE OFFICE CC\*

Rt Hon Alan Johnson MP  
Secretary of State for Health,  
Department of Health,  
Richmond House  
79 Whitehall  
London SW1A 2NS

17<sup>th</sup> October, 2007

Dear Alan,

**RE: Purchasing Imports of Commercial Factor VIII Blood Products**

I am writing to you in relation to a Freedom of Information request I made on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2007, reference PO00000218151, asking for copies or details of centrally negotiated contracts for the purchase of commercially imported Anti-Haemoglobin (AHG) concentrate/factor VIII blood from 1975 to 1980.

I received a response to the request on 23<sup>rd</sup> July (see attached) which states that "There is no indication in the documents that the Department of Health and Social Security at the time made any centrally negotiated contracts for the purchase of imported plasma products."

However, in answer to a PQ in 1975 (also attached), Lord Owen, then Secretary of State for Health, stated that "Under arrangements centrally negotiated by my Department, Health Authorities spent £412,000 on the purchase of commercially imported AHG concentrate between November 1973 and January 1975."

My researcher queried the FOI response via email raising the apparent discrepancy to which he received a response (see attached) that states, "I am unable to explain what was meant by 'arrangements centrally negotiated by my Department'. Officials have made a further search of relevant files and can find no further information on this matter."

Liberal Democrats  
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Telephone:   
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Whilst Jenny Willott MP will treat as confidential any personal information which you pass on, she will normally allow staff and authorised volunteers to see it if this is needed to help and advise you. The MP may pass on all or some of this information to agencies such as the DWP, the Inland Revenue or the local Council if this is necessary to help with your case. Jenny Willott MP may wish to write to you from time to time to keep you informed on issues which you may find of interest. Please let her know if you do not wish to be contacted for this purpose.



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I was hoping you might be able to shed some light on the following issues:

- Whether there was a change of policy post-1975 for the Department to no longer act on behalf of Health Authorities in negotiating contracts for importing commercial factor VIII and if so, if you will provide details and records of this policy change?
- Whether there are any records of the Department centrally negotiating contracts for importing commercial factor VIII blood products in the period 1980-1990 and if so, whether you could supply details and records of these?
- Whether there were any other policy changes in relation to the purchase of importing commercial factor VIII blood products in the period 1980 to 1990, and if so whether you will provide details and records of these?

I look forward to your response and thank-you in advance.

Yours sincerely,

GRO-C

Jenny Willott MP  
Cardiff Central

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