

John Randall, MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

7 September 2007

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Dear Dawn

Thank you very much for your letter of 15 August 2007 (PO 00000225794) on the question of patients who are infected with contaminated blood products following treatment on the NHS.

I enclose herewith a copy of a further letter I have received from Mr. Chris James of the Haemophilia Society and I would welcome any new comments you are able to make on the points he raises.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours ever

GRO-C: John

Rt. Hon. Dawn Primarolo
Minister of State
Dept. of Health
Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London SW1A 2NS

Caring for people with bleeding disorders



THE
HAEMOPHILIA
SOCIETY
UNITED KINGDOM

John Randall MP
House of Commons
London
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4th September 2007

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Dear John

Thank you for your letter of 18 August 2007 and for your continued work and support in this area. The letter from Dawn Primarolo MP dated 15 August 2007 is indeed very interesting.

It is surprising that the reason she gives for the review commissioned in June 2006 being restricted to non-A non-B hepatitis is that this was where the main focus of interest lay. The Haemophilia Society has consistently called for a Public Inquiry into all infections contracted through contaminated blood products. We believe that there is a repeating pattern of infection from hepatitis B, HIV, hepatitis C and then exposure to vCJD that needs to be looked at together. We are very pleased that this is the approach that The Rt. Hon The Lord Archer of Sandwell QC is taking in his Independent Public Inquiry.

The cut off date of 1985 for the Departmental Review is also questionable as we know of individuals in Scotland that were infected after this date. As the Scottish Parliament was not established until 1999 we feel that the Department of Health must bear some of the responsibility for the delay in introducing properly heat treated blood products in Scotland.

While the Government may suggest that a Public Inquiry would not add significantly to their understanding of the contaminated blood issue we believe it would certainly provide useful insights for the affected community. The fact that there was a delay of almost a decade between recombinant treatment becoming the recommended treatment for people with haemophilia and the Recombinant For All scheme making it available to all people with haemophilia has resulted in widespread exposure of people with haemophilia to vCJD. For us this is a powerful illustration that the ability of the Department of Health to react to new threats to the safety of blood and blood products is not yet adequate and therefore there is still much that could be learnt from a full an public examination of previous infections.

I am extremely grateful for your continued interest in this issue. If it would be useful I would be please to have a meeting with you to explain the situation in more detail. To arrange a mutually convenient time please contact Sue Rocks on [GRO-C](#) or [sue@GRO-C](#).

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

GRO-C

Chris James
Chief Executive