



"REVIEW OF PAPERS: SELF SUFFICIENCY IN BLOOD PRODUCTS"

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 Subject: REVIEW OF
 PAPERS: SELF SUFFICIENCY IN BLOOD PRODUCTS



RESTRICTED - Policy

You may already be aware that in 2002 Ministers commissioned a review of papers on the issue of self sufficiency in blood products during the 1970's and 1980's.

A draft report is now complete. I attach in confidence a draft copy of the report which sets out the results of the review and includes a chronology of events. The background to this report, is that, almost all haemophilia patients treated with blood products were infected with hepatitis C, and many with HIV. Lord (David) Owen, then a Health Minister publicly suggested that this might have been avoided had the UK achieved self sufficiency in blood products, a policy he initiated in 1975. Without this review it is difficult to answer any detailed

accusations levelled by Lord Owen and others.

Due to other work pressures we have been unable to complete work on the report before now. We are currently sending this report to a number of key people to consider for factual accuracy (Jane Martin at BPL, Pat Hewitt at NBA and Prof Zukerman at the Royal Free). However, I am sending this report to you now so that you are aware of the contents. **If you do have any comments can you please let me know by Monday 23 May.**

We would like to submit this report as soon as possible to the Minister with a recommendation that the report should be published. I am also attaching a draft submission which may need amending in light of comments that we receive. We will of course liaise with you prior to publication of the report.



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Submission on review of papers.doc

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