

**URGENT**

Dr Keel  
Deputy Chief Medical Officer

**CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE HEALTH AND COMMUNITY CARE COMMITTEE**

Please see the attached correspondence and report which has been received from Margaret Smith, Convenor, Health and Community Care Committee.

To enable us to prepare a response for the Minister I would be grateful for your comments on the matters raised, in particular your comments on point "X" would be appreciated.

A reply in early course would be appreciated.

**GRO-C**

DAVID BELL  
Health Care Policy Division  
Branch 3  
Room 2E(N), SAH  
Ext: **GRO-C**  
14 July 2000

Miss Teale

**CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE HEALTH AND COMMUNITY CARE  
COMMITTEE**

Please see the attached correspondence and report which have been received from Margaret Smith, Convenor, Health and Community Care Committee. I would be grateful for any comments you have on the matters raised by Friday 21 July.

Thank you.

**GRO-C**

DAVID BELL  
Health Care Policy Division  
Branch 3  
Room 2E(N), SAH  
Ext: **GRO-C**  
14 July 2000



## SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

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Health Department  
Health Care Policy Division

NHS Management Executive  
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**URGENT**

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National Director  
Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service  
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EH17 7QT

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Our ref: NQH/23/1/1

14 July 2000

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Dear Mr Macmillan Douglas

**CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE HEALTH AND COMMUNITY CARE COMMITTEE**

Please see the attached correspondence dated 10 July and report which have been received from Margaret Smith, Convenor, Health and Community Care Committee. To enable us to prepare a response for the Minister I would be grateful for your comments on the matters raised, in particular your comments on point "X" would be greatly appreciated.

I apologise for the extremely short timescale, however, if at all possible a reply by **Friday 21 July** would be appreciated.

Yours sincerely

**GRO-C**

DAVID BELL



The Scottish  
Parliament

Susan Deacon MSP  
Minister for Health and Community Care  
St Andrew's House  
EDINBURGH  
EH1 3DG

Dear Susan,

*Copy.* *rec'd 11/7.*  
*Mr J/T Brown.*  
*Ms. Gair 14/7*  
*In your?*  
*Dr. Keel, Mr. Falconer, Miss Teale*  
*Dave - copy to Angus Macmillan*  
*Pre copy to Angus Macmillan*  
*Douglas seeks his help on X. My*  
*understanding is that NABH was*  
*identified as a problem long before*  
*HCV was isolated. As I further understand it, there is no*  
*treatment to remove HCV from whole blood - but testing*  
*will be an important*  
*area for the CCG. They*  
*have also said there will be*  
*space to produce a bioscore but*  
**Health and Community Care Committee**  
**Hepatitis C**

I refer to earlier correspondence by the Health and Community Care Committee arising from Petition PE 185 by Mr Thomas McKissock and your response dated 13 June 2000. The Committee considered your letter at its meeting on 21 June 2000. I enclose a copy of the Official Report of the meeting on 21 June giving the Committee's deliberations on this matter.

The Committee agreed to seek clarification of the your statement contained within paragraph 3, "...that you (the Minister) see limited value in examining an issue on which we (the Executive) already know the outcome, and for this reason she (the Minister) does not intend to extend further the remit of this exercise." The Committee is unsure why you have excluded all persons who have contracted hepatitis C due to contaminated blood products from the inquiry and why the remit is limited to examine the heat treatment of Factor VIII in the period 1985-87. The Committee is concerned that there may be implications for those who contracted hepatitis C through contaminated blood products and who are not haemophiliacs should the question of compensation be addressed.

In addition the Committee also is seeking information on:-

- the date that hepatitis C was identified as occurring in blood products and whether or not the examination and treatment of blood was carried out timeously once infection was known to occur; and
- the content of your report, and whether or not, it contains background information on hepatitis C, not just in relation to factor VIII, but also in relation to other contaminated blood products.

The Committee is aware that the above may already be covered within your report and if this is the case would not wish you to reiterate the information, however if it is not the case the Committee would be obliged to receive clarification on the above points. The Committee would appreciate an early response to this matter given that you have indicated that your report would be published before the Parliament's summer recess which is due to commence on 7 July 2000.

If you require any further information regarding the above please do not hesitate to contact Jennifer Smart, Clerk to the Committee on Ext **GRO-C**

Yours sincerely,

**GRO-C**

*RP* Margaret Smith  
Convener