

Lord Tim Clement Jones
The House of Lords
Westminster
London
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Mrs Colette Wintle

GRO-C

29-07-03

Dear Lord Clement Jones,

I am writing to thank you for your response regarding the questions you tabled on my behalf recently in connection with haemophilia issues. I have just returned from holiday and have now looked at the reply you received from Lord Warner. I am naturally very unhappy with his response particularly regarding Lord Owen's missing files and do not feel he has given a satisfactory explanation as to what happened to them. I am also puzzled as to how the government intend to review why Britain failed to achieve self-sufficiency in blood supplies when the files relating to this matter have been pulped. I would also like to know why they have failed to respond to Lord Morris, and Lord Owen, both of whom requested an independent report on what happened to these public health files some 12 months ago.

I would be appreciative if you would take this matter further, since I feel there has been deliberate obstruction on getting the truth from the government over what is a very serious issue. As you know the 30 year rule on keeping such information has been broken illegally.

I wondered if you would also ask the government why blatant discrimination among local Primary Care trusts in respect of prescribing Recombinant Factor V111 is occurring. I have approached Worcester Primary Care Trust to request that should I have need of any clotting factors in the future that I would be funded for those requirements. I pointed out to the Director of Public Health that two other constituents in my area who like me were virally compromised through past NHS treatment were funded for Recombinant. I gave my reason for wanting the genetically manufactured product as opposed to the blood plasma product on the grounds of safety. I explained that on moral grounds it was unfair to expect me to accept human imported plasma because of my past infections from such a product. I have been refused, and advised that the other patients in my locality had special circumstances, which allowed them access to Recombinant. I happen to know that this is not the case and that one of those patients gave an interview to the Guardian newspaper outlining a case of discrimination regarding prescribing of this product, which is more likely to have been the reason he won his battle for safer treatment! The irony is that I am least likely to cost the Worcester Primary care trust, since I am not treated on a daily basis, but only as per accident or a surgical procedure is carried out. In effect I am more cost effective if you were looking at making a clinical decision on a cost basis. I wondered if you are able to help me with this problem. It seems ridiculous that my Haematologist at Birmingham Queen Elizabeth Hospital has agreed to offer me Recombinant providing my Health Authority funds it.

I have enclosed a copy of an excellent article printed on Sunday July 27th, which has at last opened up an opportunity for calling once more for a public inquiry. I am also sending a copy to Lord Morris, whom you know has campaigned tirelessly over many years for such an inquiry to enable the victims of this blood conspiracy to achieve justice which is long overdue. I am grateful to you both for your support in these matters and hope that answers will be forthcoming in the near future for those of us who continue to battle on in our quest for the truth. I will be writing to Lord Morris to ask that in light of this recent press coverage, the need for a public inquiry is ever greater, and will all members of the House of Lords who support haemophilia victims call again for the government to respond.

I look forward to hearing from you and thank you again for your interest.

Best Wishes

Colette Wintle

Independent Campaigner

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