

From Gillian Merron MP
Minister of State



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Mrs Colette Wintle

GRO-C

22/7/09

Dear Mrs Wintle,

Thank you for your letter of 19 June about contaminated blood and blood products, delivered with a number of other letters from similarly affected people to the constituency office of the Secretary of State, the Rt Hon Andy Burnham MP.

The Secretary of State has recently written to Mr David Tonkin, Chairman of the Manor House Group, about this issue. As I am the Minister responsible for this policy area, the Secretary of State has asked me to send a copy of his reply to you.

I also enclose a copy of the *Hansard* extract of the Westminster Hall debate that was held on 1 July 2009.

As you will see, I am deeply sorry for what happened and have the utmost sympathy for those whose lives have been affected by it either directly or indirectly. If doctors and medical experts had known then what they know now, the tragedy could have been prevented, but the fact is that they did not. I want to reassure you that we take our responsibility to guard the safety of the blood supply extremely seriously and that the lessons have been learned from these tragic events.

Yours sincerely

GRO-C

GILLIAN MERRON