

Self-sufficiency in plasma products (Lord Owen)

The noble Lord, Lord Owen mentions his commitment made as the then Minister for Health in 1975 that the UK would become self-sufficient in clotting factors within 18 months.

I have been advised that a review is being undertaken by the Department of Health to clarify the facts surrounding the drive for UK self-sufficiency in blood products in the 1970 and 1980s. The review is based on papers available from the time and is not addressing allegations that files from that period went missing. Officials have been asked to conclude the review as soon as practicable.