



SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

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Date: 6 September 1999

Dear Margaret,

Thank you for your letter of 6 August 1999 about the heat treatment of blood products in Scotland in the 1980s.

I am keen to ensure that the history of this issue and the circumstances surrounding the introduction of heat treatment procedures at that time are fully investigated.

Indeed, as you may have gathered from press reports, I instructed my officials to undertake an immediate investigation into these issues some weeks ago. Information is currently being compiled from the SNBTS, the Department of Health in England and the divisions who oversee the treatment of haemophiliacs in Scotland.

I have arranged to meet with the Haemophilia Society on 14 September in order to hear their concerns at first hand. I will then consider any further action in the light of that meeting and the outcome of the current investigations.

I would, of course, be pleased to report the findings of this investigation to the Health and Community Care Committee, together with any proposed course of action.

Susan

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SUSAN DEACON