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I am writing further to our meeting on 10 November 2003. 1 apologies for the delay in responding to your written queries.

The Welsh Assembly Government has enormous sympathy for people infected with hepatitis C as a result of receiving NHS blood or blood products and recognises the hardships that this illness has brought on them and their loved ones.

However, we have not changed our position on compensation. The Minister has always had great sympathy and it was the view of the Assembly that people who had been infected in Wales should not be at a disadvantage in comparison to the rest of the United Kingdom.

Therefore. the Minister made the decision that wales should have an ex-gratia payments scheme. working with the other health administrations will ensure the scheme is fair. equitable and non-discriminatory. ← Contradiction

discriminates against ~~Fett~~ anyone before date 29/9/03

The inadvertent infection of many thousands of people with hepatitis C as a result of treatment with NHS blood and blood products in the 1970s, 80s and 90s remains a tragic event in the UK and in many other countries around the world. These patients were at the time given what was felt to be the best treatment available. It was a great shame that medical advances in virology could not keep pace with those being made in transfusion and blood technology,-technology which continues to save. prolong and improve lives today.

best! as effective, or safest?

It is important to stress that despite the UK health administrations decision to make ex-gratia payments,the position with regards to accepting liability has not changed.

The Assembly does not accept that any wrongful practices were employed and does not consider a public inquiry justified. As you are aware, donor screening for hepatitis C was introduced in the UK in 1991 and the development of this test marked a major advance in microbiological technology, which could not have been implemented before this time.

the Questions asked refers to patient testing not donor screening for hep C

As we discussed during our meeting, since the announcement of the scheme in August, significant progress has been made in drawing up the details of the ex-gratia payments scheme and we hope to make a further announcement later this week. We are making efforts to ensure that Haemophilia Wales are represented at subsequent patient group meetings.It is not appropriate for the Assembly to comment on treatment of individual patients.

Details the same as announced in Jan 03

Qu.

We will keep you informed of future developments.

I understand from Cardiff Local Health Board that the delay in receiving your grant has now been rectified and that you have received your funding for this financial year.