Dr Rejman

From: Paul Pudlo CA: OPU2

Date: 9 April 1996

Copy: Dr Metters DCMO

Mr Guinness Ms Ryan SOL

## HEP B CORE ANTIBODY TEST - LETTER FROM DR NAPIER

1. Thank you for your minute of 1 April.

- 2. I agree with Ms Ryan that we should note disclose. The advice given by the ACVSB/MSBT is in the normal course of events confidential to Ministers. There are good reasons for not voluntarily breaching this position.
- 3. However I can see no reason why we should not share the lines that already in the public domain, explaining why Ministers decided not to implement anti HBC screening (lack of specificity and reliable confirmatory tests etc). No doubt these are already available to Dr Napier but it at least allows us to offer something and avoiding the appearance of secrecy in a matter of reasonable public concern.

Paul Pudlo Room 315, EH Ext GRO-C