



THE SCOTTISH OFFICE

Department of Health

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23 October 1995

Dear Christopher

LOOKBACK ON NON-HAEMOPHILIAC RECIPIENTS OF DEFIX

As you know this was discussed again at the most recent meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Party on HCV Lookback, on 13 October. It was pointed out that the initial terms of reference for that working party referred to a lookback involving blood and unfractionated blood products only. Any revision of these terms of reference would therefore require a Ministerial decision. The working party thought that it would not be logical to extend the lookback only to Defix, as clearly other fractionated blood products also had the potential to transmit HCV prior to 1991. The working party were also concerned about the enormous logistical difficulties in extending the lookback, not least the adequacy or otherwise of hospital record systems which would of course play a crucial part in any proposed extension of the current lookback. In addition, implicit in the whole lookback exercise is the understanding that any individual who has received blood products not covered by the exercise, prior to September 1991, and who may be concerned about his or her HCV status, can request an HCV test.

The Department of Health will be submitting a progress report on the exercise to Ministers in the near future. The question of extension of the working party's current terms of reference will be covered in that submission. The submission will also address the question of whether the availability of HCV testing for individuals not included in the current lookback should be made more explicit. Ultimately therefore, these will be Ministerial decisions.

Kind regards.

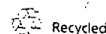
Yours sincerely

GRO-C

DR A KEEL
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