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Subject: PQ 2447

As you know I sought advice from SOL on this. I think their response takes Lord Morris's question to be asking for factual information on what the then Government said were the reasons for introducing the HIV scheme. I feel, though, that Lord Morris may be thinking of the wording in this Government's response to the Haemophilia Society on hep C.

I think it would not be very helpful to refer in the reply to 1987 Hansards, although I can look out the material if Lady Hayman wishes. I think that possibly the reply suggested yesterday clarifies that the wording (which was that used by SofS) was the wording of this Government in the context of hepatitis C, not of the previous Govt in the context of HIV at the time. I should appreciate a steer.

Gwen