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.15 Jan 2009	Jenny Willott	To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department is planning to respond to the forthcoming report by Lord Archer on contaminated blood and blood products and to its specific recommendations; and if he will make a statement. [247054]	19
19 Jan 2009	Jenny Willott	To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 16 December 2008, <i>Official Report</i> , columns 675-76W, on contaminated blood and blood products inquiry, how many of the documents discovered in unregistered files and subsequently withheld from release under exemptions in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 were also withheld from release from the documents returned to his Department's solicitors in May 2006 by Blackett, Hart and Pratt. [247231]	20
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5 Feb 2009	Jenny Willott	To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 15 January 2009, <i>Official Report</i> , column 962W, on blood: contamination, and with reference to the answer of 25 June 2008, <i>Official Report</i> , columns 362-3W, on HIV infection: blood, what analysis his Department has made of the reasons for the rate of reported deaths of haemophiliacs who contracted HIV as a result of taking contaminated blood products under the NHS between 2007. [251167]	21
10 Feb 2009	Jenny Willott	To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 15 October 1990, <i>Official Report</i> , column 662W, on haemophiliacs (Aids), (1) how many of the documents that were withheld from the courts by the Department were among those that were not released to the independent inquiry into contaminated blood and blood products chaired by Lord Archer QC of Sandwell; and if he will make a statement; [253285] (2) how many documents were withheld from the courts by the Department; and if he will make a statement; [253286] (3) which documents that were withheld from the courts by the Department have been subsequently released to the independent inquiry into contaminated blood and blood products chaired by Lord Archer QC of Sandwell; and if he will make a statement. [253287]	22
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12 Feb 2009	Mr. Meacher	To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Cardiff Central of 30 June 2008, <i>Official Report</i> , column 652W, on blood products, if he will disclose the 35 documents wholly or partly withheld by his Department which relate to the infection of haemophiliacs by contaminated blood products. [256830]	23

23 Feb 2009	Jenny Willott:	To ask the Secretary of State for Health what (a) correspondence and (b) meetings his Department has with the inquiry team of the independent public inquiry into contaminated blood products (i) prior to and (ii) subsequent to the beginning of the inquiry; on which dates such meetings occurred; and if he will make a statement. [256698]	24
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31 March 2009	Bob Spink	To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to establish a public inquiry into the transmission of hepatitis C and HIV through blood and blood products; and if he will make a statement. [267049]	29
2 April 2009	Mike Penning	To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding his Department provided for (a) the Eileen Trust and (b) the MacFarlane Trust in 2008-09. [267738]	30
20 April 2009	Jenny Willott	To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many inquests into the deaths of people who contracted (a) HIV, (b) Hepatitis C or (c) variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease through contaminated blood products administered to them under the NHS have been completed; and if he will make a statement. [269757]	31
21 April 2009	Jenny Willott	To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 19 March 2009, <i>Official Report</i> , column 1302W, on contaminated blood and blood products, what timetable he has set for responding to the recommendations made by Lord Archer; by what mechanism that response will be made; and if he will make a statement. [269473]	32
5 May 2009	Lord Roberts of Conwy	To ask Her Majesty's Government further to the answers by Baroness Thornton on 5 March (<i>Official Report</i> , House of Lords, cols. 844—46), what representations they have received from Mrs [GRO-A] of [GRO-A] Suffolk, the widow of a haemophilia patient fatally infected with hepatitis C by contaminated NHS products, about those answers. [HL2493]	33
12 May 2009	Bob Spink Oral Topical Question	A number of my constituents have been the victims of contaminated blood. When will the Government respond to the Archer report, and may we have a debate so that we can consider the report and Tainted Blood's document, "We Accuse"? This is a matter of decency and fair play for those victims.	34
19 May 2009	Stephen Hammond	To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the likely effect on blood supplies of implementing the recommendations contained within the Archer Report on levels of contaminated blood supplies; and if he will make a statement. [276385]	35
3 June	Lord Morris of	To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate the	36

2009	<i>Manchester</i>	Department of Health has made of the cost of the proposals set out in its response of 20 May to the report of the Independent Public Inquiry headed by Lord Archer of Sandwell into the infection of haemophilia patients with HIV and hepatitis C by contaminated NHS blood products; and whether they will provide a breakdown of the costs of each of the proposals in the response. [HL3891]	
3 June 2009	<i>Lord Morris of Manchester</i>	To ask Her Majesty's Government further to the remarks by Lord Darzi of Denham on 28 April (<i>Official Report</i> , House of Lords, col. 143) undertaking to assist in securing time for their response to the report of the Independent Public Inquiry headed by Lord Archer of Sandwell into the use of contaminated blood in the NHS treatment of haemophilia patients to be debated in the House of Lords, when the debate will take place; and whether they will indicate its timing, following their response to the Archer report being made by Written Statement. [HL3904]	36
15 June 2009	<i>Lord Corbett of Castle Vale</i>	To ask Her Majesty's Government when they will respond to the recommendation of the Independent Inquiry on NHS Supplied Contaminated Blood and Blood Products that the Government should review the conditions under which the widow of a patient infected by blood products now becomes eligible for financial assistance. [HL3972]	37
15 Jun 2009	<i>Lord Morris of Manchester</i>	To ask Her Majesty's Government further to the Written Answer by Lord Darzi of Denham on 14 May (WA 229—30) on the implications for haemophilia patients of a post-mortem having found vCJD in the spleen of one such patient, what was the outcome of the CJD Incidents Panel's consideration of the case and its implications on 20 May; who attended the panel's meeting; and why it was not held nearer to the date of the postmortem. [HL3959]	38
15 Jun 2009	<i>Lord Morris of Manchester</i>	To ask Her Majesty's Government further to the Written Answer by Lord Darzi of Denham on 14 May (WA 229—30), whether it remains the view of the Chief Medical Officer at the Department of Health that any risk to haemophilia patients of contracting vCJD from blood given from donors who subsequently died of vCJD is hypothetical. [HL3960]	39
15 Jun 2009	<i>Lord Morris of Manchester</i>	To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the statement by Lord Thomas of Gresford on 23 April (<i>Official Report</i> , House of Lords, col. 1613) in the debate on the use of NHS blood products contaminated with HIV and hepatitis C in the treatment of haemophilia patients that if Ministers chose to back-date as necessary the waiving of Crown immunity it would still be possible for actions to be brought by those afflicted or bereaved by the contamination. [HL3961]	40
16 Jun 2009	<i>Lord Morris of Manchester</i>	To ask Her Majesty's Government further to the Written Statement by Lord Darzi of Denham on 20 May (WS 121—22), what meetings have taken place between officials at the Department of Health and the Macfarlane Trust to ensure that the department had the latest data on the number of surviving persons with haemophilia who had been infected with HIV and hepatitis C by contaminated National Health Service blood products. [HL4130]	41
16 Jun 2009	<i>Lord Morris of Manchester</i>	To ask Her Majesty's Government further to the Written Statement by Lord Darzi of Denham on 20 May (WS 121—22), what assessment they have made of how much it would cost for the provision of life insurance cover for patients infected with HIV or hepatitis C or both by contaminated National Health Service blood products to be at least as good as the provision made in the Republic of Ireland, as recommended by the Independent Public Inquiry headed by Lord Archer of Sandwell. [HL4132]	41

18 Jun 2009	Lord Morris of Manchester	To ask Her Majesty's Government further to the Written Statement by Lord Darzi of Denham on 20 May (<i>WS 121—22</i>), how the average annual payment of £6,400 for the Macfarlane Trust's beneficiaries was determined; and whether any meetings between officials at the Department of Health and the trust have demonstrated that the sum may need adjusting. [HL4131]	43
18 Jun 2009	Lord Morris of Manchester	To ask Her Majesty's Government further to the Written Statement by Lord Darzi of Denham on 20 May (<i>WS 121—22</i>), when the average annual payment made to the Macfarlane Trust's beneficiaries will be increased; whether payments will be back-dated to 20 May; and whether any payments made between 20 May and the date the new level is introduced will be discounted. [HL4134]	43
18 Jun 2009	Lord Morris of Manchester	To ask Her Majesty's Government further to the Written Answer by Lord Darzi of Denham on 5 May (<i>WA 100—01</i>), whether Lord Darzi of Denham will now act on the assurance given to him by Mrs GRO-A , the widow of a haemophilia patient contaminated by National Health Service blood products, that she has no objection to the text of the letter referred to in the question by Lord Roberts of Conwy being published in full in the <i>Official Report</i> . [HL4186]	43
18 Jun 2009	Baroness Campbell of Surbiton	To ask Her Majesty's Government further to the Written Statement by Lord Darzi of Denham on 20 May (<i>WS 122</i>), why they did not respond nor refer to the Archer report's recommendation (at page 109) calling for action to end the anomaly of basing entitlement to financial help of the widow of a fatally-infected haemophilia patient on the date of his death; and whether they will now respond to the recommendation. [HL4227]	44
23 June 2009	Dr. Iddon Oral Topical Question	Why has my right hon. Friend rejected Lord Archer's recommendation that patients who have contracted the hepatitis C virus from contaminated blood should receive the same compensation as those who contracted HIV from contaminated blood, as in the Irish Republic and several other countries?	45
23 June 2009	Lord Morris of Manchester	To ask Her Majesty's Government further to the Written Statement by Lord Darzi of Denham on 20 May (<i>WS 121—22</i>), whether all payments made to beneficiaries of the Macfarlane Trust in consequence of the Written Statement will be increased in line with inflation. [HL4133]	46

2 May 2007

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the number of haemophiliacs who were infected with HIV and hepatitis C through blood transfusions when they were children, but are unable to receive hardship funds through the Macfarlane Trust and the Skipton fund; and if she will make a statement. [132463]

Caroline Flint: The Macfarlane Trust was set up in 1988 to provide financial help to patients with haemophilia infected with the HIV virus and their families.

The Skipton fund was set up in 2004 to administer an Ex-gratia Payment scheme for patients infected with hepatitis C following national health service treatment with blood or blood products. Haemophilia patients who were infected with hepatitis C are eligible for a payment under the Skipton fund.

Anyone eligible for payments should have received them. The Department is examining two cases where individuals claim that they have not received payments they may be entitled to.

14 May 2007:

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assistance her Department (a) has given and (b) expects to give to the independent public inquiry into the supply of contaminated NHS blood to haemophilia patients. [135885]

Caroline Flint: Officials met with members of the inquiry team on 25 April 2007 to discuss what information the Department may be able to provide to the inquiry. It was agreed that officials would provide a copy of a report, "Review of Documentation Relating to the Safety of Blood Products 1970-1985", which is due to be issued shortly and will be placed in the Library. Officials also agreed to provide some additional information regarding the chronology of certain events.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the overall cost to the public purse of providing ex gratia payments to the relatives of those who died before 2003 as a result of infection with blood products contaminated with hepatitis C. [135916]

Caroline Flint: The Skipton Fund was established in 2004, to administer the ex-gratia payment scheme for people infected with hepatitis C following national health service treatment with blood or blood products. It has no commitment to make payments to the relatives of those infected.

14 May 2007

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many requests her Department has received for original copies of legal waivers signed by haemophiliacs undertaking not to take legal action against the Department or any other public body in respect of infection with HIV or hepatitis viruses as a result of infected blood products; how many such documents the Department has provided following those requests; and if she will make a statement. [132464]

Caroline Flint: In the period April 2006 to March 2007 the Department received three requests for copies of waivers signed by haemophiliacs infected with HIV through blood products. The Department has been unable to satisfy these requests. There is no requirement for such waivers in relation to infection with hepatitis.

14 May 2007

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many haemophiliacs infected with HIV or hepatitis C or both via contaminated blood products received compensation from out of court settlements in (a) 1989 and (b) 1991; and if she will make a statement. [132465]

Caroline Flint: This information is not available in the form requested. Most of the registrants of the Macfarlane Trust are haemophiliacs infected with HIV. There is also a smaller number of their infected intimates, and some female carriers who were infected with Von Willebrands disease.

On 31 March 1989 there were 700 registrants of the Trust and on 31 March 1991 there were 970 registrants.

There were no out of court settlements for the period concerned in relation to infection with hepatitis C.

14 May 2007

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many legal waivers were recorded by her Department as being signed by haemophiliacs undertaking not to take legal action against the Department or any other public body in respect of infection with HIV or hepatitis viruses as a result of the use of infected blood products; how many original copies of such documents the Department holds; and if she will make a statement. [132479]

Caroline Flint: All new registrants of the Macfarlane Trust are routinely required to sign a Deed of Undertaking at the time of their registration, which indemnifies the Government against any further litigation.

The Department currently hold 90 original waivers. A number of signed waivers, going back to 1989, were inadvertently destroyed with the files in which they were held. There is no requirement for such waivers in relation to infection with hepatitis.

14 May 2007

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health:

(1) many patients were given blood contaminated with (a) HIV and (b) hepatitis C while being treated by the NHS in each year since 1997; [135032]

(2) what steps are being taken by her Department to prevent contaminated blood reaching patients in the NHS. [135033]

Caroline Flint: The National Blood Service (NBS) is aware of one case of HIV transmission to a blood recipient since 1997. There have been no documented cases of transmission of hepatitis C through blood collected by the NBS since 1997.

All blood provided for blood transfusion is screened for evidence of infection with HIV, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, human T cell lymphotropic virus and Syphilis before being released for issue to hospitals. In addition, the NBS has put in place a number of precautionary measures against the risk vCJD, such as excluding people who have received blood transfusion from donating blood.

14 May 2007

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health:

(1) how much her Department spent on imported blood products from the US in (a) 1977, (b) 1978 and (c) 1979; and if she will make a statement; [134902]

(2) what volume of factor VIII blood product was imported from the US into the UK in (a) 1977, (b) 1978 and (c) 1979; and if she will make a statement; [134903]

(3) what volume of UK-sourced blood was fractionated to develop blood products for use by haemophiliacs in (a) 1980, (b) 1981, (c) 1982, (d) 1983 and (e) 1984; and if she will make a statement; [134907]

(4) what volume of cryoprecipitate was available for use in the NHS in (a) 1980, (b) 1981, (c) 1982, (d) 1983 and (e) 1984; and if she will make a statement; [134908]

(5) how much and what proportion of blood products given to haemophiliacs in (a) 1985, (b) 1986, (c) 1987, (d) 1988 and (e) 1989 was sourced from the US; and if she will make a statement; [134909]

(6) how much and what proportion of blood products given to haemophiliacs in (a) 1980, (b) 1981, (c) 1982, (d) 1983 and (e) 1984 was sourced from UK donors; and if she will make a statement; [134910]

(7) how much her Department spent on imported blood products from the US in (a) 1985, (b) 1986, (c) 1987, (d) 1988 and (e) 1989; and if she will make a statement; [134911]

(8) what volume of factor VIII blood product was imported from the US into the UK in (a) 1985, (b) 1986, (c) 1987, (d) 1988 and (e) 1989; and if she will make a statement; [135267]

(9) what volume and proportion of blood products given to haemophiliacs in (a) 1977, (b) 1978 and (c) 1979 were sourced from USA donors; and if she will make a statement. [135277]

Caroline Flint: During the 1970s and 1980s the Department did not purchase imported blood products. At the time, Blood Products Laboratory (BPL) made plasma products from plasma collected from British blood donors. From 1999 BPL has obtained plasma from the United States as a precautionary measure against vCJD transmission by United Kingdom plasma. All US plasma collection centres are highly regulated and conform to a strict code of practice.

Clinicians have been able to directly procure blood products from other sources and data on their use is not collected centrally. However, the report "Self Sufficiency in Blood Products in England and Wales" contains information on the annual consumption of factor VIII in the UK (table two) for the years 1969-1987. In addition, further information on the consumption of both the BPL and commercial blood products is contained in two articles "Treatment of Haemophilia in the United Kingdom 1981-1996", by Rizza CR et al Haemophilia (2001) 7, 349-359; and "Treatment of haemophilia in related disorders in Britain and Northern Ireland during 1976-80", by Rizza CR et al British Medical Journal (286) 1983. Copies of these articles have been placed in the Library.

14 May 2007

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health:

(1) how much her Department spent on the production of blood products in the UK for use by haemophiliacs in (a) 1977, (b) 1978 and (c) 1979; and if she will make a statement; [134901]

(2) how much her Department spent on the production of blood products in the UK for use by haemophiliacs in (a) 1980, (b) 1981, (c) 1982, (d) 1983 and (e) 1984; and if she will make a statement; [134912]

(3) how much her Department spent on increasing blood donations at regional transfusion centres in (a) 1985, (b) 1986, (c) 1987, (d) 1988 and (e) 1989; and if she will make a statement; [134905]

(4) how much her Department spent on increasing blood donations at regional transfusion centres in (a) 1977, (b) 1978 and (c) 1979; and if she will make a statement. [135279]

Caroline Flint: This information can be provided only at a disproportionate cost. However, in 1975 up to £500,000 (about half of which would be recurring) was allocated to Regional Transfusion Centres to increase plasma supplies to Blood Products Laboratory. This funding was allocated to enable the United Kingdom to achieve self sufficiency in blood products. Further information is available in the report "Self Sufficient in Blood Products in England and Wales" which is available in the Library. The supporting references to the report are in the public domain.

11 June 2007

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many known haemophiliacs who acquired HIV and hepatitis C through blood transfusions there are in (a) Kent and (b) the UK. [140358]

Caroline Flint: Data are not collected on the number of patients with haemophilia infected with HIV and hepatitis C who are living in Kent. Data for the United Kingdom are provided in the table.

	<i>Estimated number of haemophilia patients infected through contaminated blood products who are alive</i>
Hepatitis C ⁽¹⁾	2,538
HIV ⁽²⁾	360
⁽¹⁾ Estimated data from the United Kingdom Haemophilia Centre Directors' Organisation National Haemophilia Database.	
⁽²⁾ Data from the Macfarlane Trust.	

20 February 2008

Lord Roberts of Conwy asked Her Majesty's Government:

Further to the Written Answer by Lord Darzi of Denham on 30 January (WA 127), whether they will apologise to NHS haemophilia patients for supplying contaminated blood products that infected them with HIV and hepatitis C, and to the dependants of the 1,757 who have died since being infected; and whether they will reach agreement with the haemophilia community to provide compensation for pain, suffering and deaths that ensued. [HL1840]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Lord Darzi of Denham): The Government deeply regret that patients with haemophilia were infected through contaminated blood products. We have great sympathy for patients who contracted HIV and or hepatitis C, and fully appreciate the hardship and pain experienced by families who cared for those who have died.

In 1988, the Macfarlane Trust was set up to administer a fund to assist people with haemophilia who had contracted HIV infection through contaminated blood products as a result of National Health Service treatment. In 2004, the Skipton Fund was established to administer an ex-gratia payment scheme for people infected with hepatitis C through contaminated blood or blood products following treatment on the NHS.

1 July 2008

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has paid to the (a) MacFarlane Trust and (b) Skipton Fund to support (i) haemophiliacs and (ii) dependants of haemophiliacs infected with HIV and hepatitis C as a result of contaminated blood products administered to them under NHS treatment in each year since 1990; and if he will make a statement. [213607]

Dawn Primarolo: Details of funding since 1990 for the Macfarlane Trust and Skipton Fund Ltd. are shown as follows:

<i>Macfarlane Trust and Skipton Fund Ltd.: Funding by the Department of Health</i>		
£000		
<i>Year ending 31 March</i>	<i>Macfarlane Trust</i>	<i>Skipton Fund Ltd.</i>
1990	100	0
1991	130	0
1992	136	0
1993	5,165	0
1994	158	0
1995	166	0
1996	2,662	0
1997	173	0
1998	3,177	0
1999	181	0
2000	2,187	0
2001	2,693	0
2002	2,448	0
2003	284	0
2004	3,469	0
2005	3,287	⁽¹⁾ 70,147
2006	3,778	14,000
2007	3,754	7,000
2008	3,754	6,400

⁽¹⁾ includes funding for the month of March 2004. *Notes:* 1. Funding to both organisations covers both payments to beneficiaries and administration costs. 2. It is not possible to provide separate figures in relation to haemophiliacs, and their dependents.

3 July 2008

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health:

(1) what estimate he has made of the cost to the NHS of providing treatment for (a) HIV/AIDS and (b) hepatitis C to haemophiliacs infected as a result of receiving contaminated blood products under NHS treatment (i) per person and (ii) in each year since 2000; and if he will make a statement; [213602]

(2) what estimate the Department has made of the cost of supporting (a) haemophiliacs and (b) dependants of haemophiliacs infected with (i) HIV and (ii) hepatitis C as a result of contaminated blood products administered to them under NHS treatment (A) in total and (B) in each of the next 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [213608]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has not undertaken an assessment of the costs of providing HIV/AIDS or hepatitis C treatment to haemophiliacs infected as a result of receiving contaminated blood.

An estimated £50 million has been paid through the Skipton Fund to support patients with haemophilia infected with hepatitis C. Of these payments, in up to 50 cases, payments were made to dependants.

Patients and dependants of patients who were infected with HIV do receive support from the Macfarlane Trust. Information is not available on the cost of supporting these dependants.

Blood: Contamination

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many haemophiliacs known to have been infected with HIV through contaminated blood products administered to them under NHS treatment are still alive; and if he will make a statement. [247048]

Dawn Primarolo: The number of haemophiliacs known to still be alive after being infected with HIV through contaminated blood products administered to them under national health service treatment is 345. In addition, there is a very small number of women with bleeding disorders still alive who have acquired HIV through this route.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department is planning to respond to the forthcoming report by Lord Archer on contaminated blood and blood products and to its specific recommendations; and if he will make a statement. [247054]

Dawn Primarolo: We await Lord Archer's report with interest. We will decide whether and how the Department may need to respond when the report is available.

19 Jan 2009 : Column 1186W

Contaminated Blood and Blood Products Inquiry

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 16 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 675-76W, on **contaminated blood** and blood products inquiry, how many of the documents discovered in unregistered files and subsequently withheld from release under exemptions in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 were also withheld from release from the documents returned to his Department's solicitors in May 2006 by Blackett, Hart and Pratt. [247231]

Dawn Primarolo: Around 4,500 documents were discovered in unregistered files, and 35 were withheld from release under exemptions in the Freedom of Information Act 2000, as set out in my answer of 30 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 652W. One document was withheld from release from around 600 documents returned by a firm of private solicitors. The one document withheld from those returned by private solicitors was also among those withheld from documents found in unregistered files. The document was withheld under section 40 (personal information) of the Freedom of Information Act.

Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what account his Department is taking in its policy on testing for vCJD infection amongst at-risk groups of the recent completion of the trial of the EP-vCJD(TM) test by Amorfix Life Sciences in collaboration with the National Institute for Biological Standards and Control; and if he will make a statement. [247049]

Dawn Primarolo: Advice on the use of this test will be sought from the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs and from the Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD) Incidents Panel when additional independent ongoing studies are completed.

5 February 2009

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 15 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 962W, on blood: contamination, and with reference to the answer of 25 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 362-3W, on HIV infection: blood, what analysis his Department has made of the reasons for the rate of reported deaths of haemophiliacs who contracted HIV as a result of taking contaminated blood products under the NHS between 2007. [251167]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has not made any analysis of the reasons for the rate of reported deaths of haemophiliacs who contracted HIV as a result of contaminated blood products between 2007 and January 2009.

The figures reported in the answer given on 25 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 362-3W (399 haemophiliacs alive in 2007) came from the United Kingdom haemophilia centre doctors' organisation (UKHCDO). The figures reported in the answer given on 15 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 962W (345 haemophiliacs alive at the end of 2008), came from the MacFarlane Trust. Neither source can be sure their information is complete and accurate. UKHCDO acknowledge that their figures are likely to be an overestimate, while not all patients will have registered with the MacFarlane Trust.

These figures do not mean that over 40 patients died during the period in question, because the organisations source their data in different ways.

The UKHCDO and the MacFarlane Trust are aware of these discrepancies, and both organisations have agreed to work together in order to try to harmonise relevant data while maintaining strict confidentiality.

Contaminated Blood and Blood Products Inquiry

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 15 October 1990, *Official Report*, column 662W, on haemophiliacs (Aids), (1) how many of the documents that were withheld from the courts by the Department were among those that were not released to the independent inquiry into contaminated blood and blood products chaired by Lord Archer QC of Sandwell; and if he will make a statement; [253285]

(2) how many documents were withheld from the courts by the Department; and if he will make a statement; [253286]

(3) which documents that were withheld from the courts by the Department have been subsequently released to the independent inquiry into contaminated blood and blood products chaired by Lord Archer QC of Sandwell; and if he will make a statement. [253287]

Dawn Primarolo: In July 1990, the then Permanent Under-Secretary of State certified to the High Court that approximately 600 documents enjoyed immunity from disclosure in civil litigation with regard to haemophiliacs who had contracted the AIDS virus in the course of national health service treatment. A definitive list of the documents is no longer available in the Department's files, and it is not therefore possible to state with confidence how many may also have been withheld in line with the Freedom of Information Act from the approximately 4,500 documents released to Lord Archer in 2007.

The documents issued to Lord Archer had been rediscovered in the Department stored in unregistered files, and 26 of these unregistered files were marked as undisclosed in litigation. It is therefore believed that these files contain the documents referred to in the 1990 certificate. From those 26 files, 12 documents were withheld in whole and nine in part from those released in 2007. These were withheld in line with exemptions in the Freedom of Information Act 2000, and not in relation to different decisions made in 1990 when different rules applied.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has received (a) a draft copy and (b) an advance copy of the report of the Independent Public Inquiry into Contaminated Blood Products; and if he will make a statement. [255217]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has not received a draft copy or an advance copy of the report of the Independent Public Inquiry into Contaminated Blood Products.

Blood: Contamination

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Cardiff Central of 30 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 652W, on blood products, if he will disclose the 35 documents wholly or partly withheld by his Department which relate to the infection of haemophiliacs by contaminated blood products. [256830]

Dawn Primarolo: These 35 documents were the only papers out of some 4,500 that were, after careful consideration, withheld under an exemption in the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The exemptions that applied are:

Section 38—Health and Safety—10 documents or part documents;

Section 40—Personal information—nine documents or part documents;

Section 42—Legal professional privilege—nine documents or part documents; and

Section 43—Commercial interests—seven documents or part documents.

For the avoidance of any continuing doubt in this matter, and given the time that has now elapsed, I have asked the Department's officials to review the seven documents withheld under Section 43 (Commercial interests), to see if there is another way that this information can be placed in the public domain.

In relation to the other three categories, these documents have been withheld for reasons that are clearly provided for within the FOI Act, and not in any way to withhold relevant information on the subject of contamination of blood and blood products.

Blood: Contamination

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what (a) correspondence and (b) meetings his Department has with the inquiry team of the independent public inquiry into contaminated blood products (i) prior to and (ii) subsequent to the beginning of the inquiry; on which dates such meetings occurred; and if he will make a statement.
[256698]

Dawn Primarolo: A search of departmental records shows approximately 50 items of correspondence between the Department and the Independent Inquiry into Contaminated Blood and Blood Products.

Only one piece of correspondence dates from before the start of the inquiry (27 March 2007). This was a letter from Lord Archer to the Secretary of State dated 16 February 2007.

Officials from the Department attended four meetings with the Inquiry. These took place on 25 April 2007, 19 September 2007, 18 February 2008 and 12 June 2008. No meetings were held prior to the start of the inquiry.

The following table shows the main correspondence between the Department and the Inquiry team. The remaining items consisted of e-mails discussing administrative arrangements relating to meetings and the delivery of documents.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>	<i>About</i>
16 February 2007	Letter	Inquiry	Department of Health, Secretary of State	Inquiry being set up
30 March 2007	Letter	Department of Health, Minister of State	Inquiry	Reply to letter of 16 February 2007
10 February 2007	E-mail	Department of Health	Inquiry	E-mail providing information on the chronology of screening of blood donors
22 May 2007	Letter	Department of Health, Minister of State	Inquiry	Release of report "Review of documentation relating to the safety of blood products 1970-1985 (non-A, non-B hepatitis)"
14 June 2007	Documents	Department of Health	Inquiry	Letter plus copies of 20 volumes of official documents
10 July 2007	Documents	Department of Health	Inquiry	Letter plus copies of 20 volumes of official documents

1 August 2007	Documents	Department of Health	Inquiry	Letter plus copies of 20 volumes of official documents
22 August 2007	Letter	Department of Health	Inquiry	Letter providing information on prion removal technologies
31 August 2007	Documents	Department of Health	Inquiry	Letter plus copies of 20 volumes of official documents
22 August 2008	Letter	Inquiry	Department of Health	Reply to letter of 22 August 2007
5 September 2007	Documents	Department of Health	Inquiry	Letter plus copies of 20 volumes of official documents
18 September 2007	E-mail	Department of Health	Inquiry	Clarifying an issue with private office correspondence
26 October 2007	Documents and Letter	Department of Health	Inquiry	Letter plus copies of 20 volumes of official documents; Letter with copies of two further documents
2 January 2008	Documents	Department of Health	Inquiry	Letter with copies of six official documents
28 March 2008	Documents	Department of Health	Inquiry	Letter with copies of three official documents
1 April 2008	Documents	Department of Health	Inquiry	Letter with copies of three official documents
2 May 2008	Documents	Department of Health	Inquiry	Letter with copy of one official document
16 June 2008	E-mail	Department of Health	Inquiry	E-mail providing information on the timetable for heat-treatment
8 October 2008	Letter and Documents	Department of Health	Inquiry	Letter with copies of 10 official documents
16 October 2008	Letter	Inquiry	Department of Health	Reply to letter of 8 October 2008

HEALTH

Blood: Contamination

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will hold a public inquiry into the infection of haemophiliacs with hepatitis C and HIV due to the use of contaminated blood by the NHS. [261080]

Dawn Primarolo: We have considered the call for a public inquiry very carefully. However the Government do not consider a further inquiry is justified as it would not add to current knowledge about how infections happened or the steps taken to deal with the problem.

Although the Government do not accept that any wrongful practices were employed, successive Governments have acknowledged the tragic circumstances surrounding infection in recipients of blood and blood products. That is why ex-gratia payment schemes were established.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to pay compensation to haemophiliacs infected with hepatitis C and HIV following the use of contaminated blood by the NHS. [261081]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has set up three ex gratia payment schemes for those infected with Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or hepatitis C through national health service treatment—the Macfarlane Trust, the Eileen Trust and the Skipton Fund Ltd.

The Macfarlane Trust was set up in 1988 to establish a hardship fund to assist haemophiliacs who contracted HIV following treatment with blood products on the NHS.

The Eileen Trust was set up in 1993 as a charitable trust to assist people other than those with bleeding disorders, who had contracted HIV through NHS treatment with contaminated blood products.

The Skipton Fund Ltd was set up in 2004 as an ex gratia payment scheme for patients infected with hepatitis C through NHS contaminated blood and blood products, provided the patient was alive on 29 August 2003.

The Department is giving Lord Archer's report the consideration it deserves and will respond as soon as it has done so.

Contaminated Blood and Blood Products Inquiry

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consideration his Department gave to providing witnesses to give evidence in public to the Archer Inquiry into contaminated blood and blood products. [261082]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has never received any formal request to give evidence to the inquiry. There are no serving officials who would have any first hand knowledge of the events being investigated. However, the Department has fully co-operated with the inquiry, meeting with Lord Archer's team several times and supplying copies of relevant official documents.

19 March 2009

Contaminated Blood and Blood Products Inquiry

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consideration he has given to responding to the report from the Archer Inquiry into contaminated blood and blood products; if he will respond in full to its recommendations; and if he will make a statement. [264205]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department is carefully considering the recommendations made by Lord Archer. In recognition of the seriousness we attach to this issue, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health and I have met with Lord Archer to discuss his recommendations.

31 March 2009

Hepatitis: Blood Transfusions

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to establish a public inquiry into the transmission of hepatitis C and HIV through blood and blood products; and if he will make a statement. [267049]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government have great sympathy for those affected in this way, and are deeply sorry that this happened as a result of national health service treatment that was given in good faith. However, these events have been the subject of long-concluded legal proceedings, and the Government have established three schemes to provide financial assistance to those affected.

Lord Archer of Sandwell has recently issued the report of his independent inquiry into these issues. I have met with Lord Archer to discuss his report, and will consider his conclusions and recommendations very carefully.

2 April 2009

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding his Department provided for (a) the Eileen Trust and (b) the MacFarlane Trust in 2008-09. [267738]

Dawn Primarolo: The funding from the Department for the Macfarlane Trust and Eileen Trust in 2008-09 was £3,754,000 and £178,000 respectively.

20 APRIL 2009

JUSTICE

Blood: Contamination

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many inquests into the deaths of people who contracted (a) HIV, (b) Hepatitis C or (c) variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease through contaminated blood products administered to them under the NHS have been completed; and if he will make a statement. [269757]

Bridget Prentice: The Ministry of Justice collects statistics on the verdicts returned at inquests by coroners in England and Wales during each calendar year, broken down into 15 categories of verdict and the sex of the deceased. No further information is collected on the circumstances of each case. (In a reformed system, the Chief Coroner is likely to review the matters on which annual statistics are collected and published, and is likely to consider whether there are specific issues on which occasional research should be carried out.)

21 April 2009

Contaminated Blood and Blood Products Inquiry

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 19 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1302W, on contaminated blood and blood products, what timetable he has set for responding to the recommendations made by Lord Archer; by what mechanism that response will be made; and if he will make a statement. [269473]

Dawn Primarolo: Ministers have met Lord Archer to discuss his recommendations. These recommendations are receiving very careful consideration, and we will respond in due course.

5 May 2009 : Column WA101

Health: Contaminated Blood Products

Question

Asked by Lord Roberts of Conwy

To ask Her Majesty's Government further to the answers by Baroness Thornton on 5 March (*Official Report*, House of Lords, cols. 844—46), what representations they have received from Mrs **GRO-A** of **GRO-A**, Suffolk, the widow of a haemophilia patient fatally infected with hepatitis C by contaminated NHS products, about those answers. [HL2493]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Lord Darzi of Denham): It would be inappropriate to give details of any correspondence which is treated as confidential.

12 May 2009 : Column 677

Bob Spink (Castle Point) (Ind): A number of my constituents have been the victims of contaminated blood. When will the Government respond to the Archer report, and may we have a debate so that we can consider the report and Tainted Blood's document, "We Accuse"? This is a matter of decency and fair play for those victims.

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Dawn Primarolo): My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and I have met Lord Archer to discuss his report, and the Government intend to respond to his findings before the House adjourns for the spring bank holiday recess. The question of a debate is a bit beyond my remit, Mr. Speaker, but I am sure that you heard what the hon. Gentleman said.

Blood

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the likely effect on blood supplies of implementing the recommendations contained within the Archer Report on levels of contaminated blood supplies; and if he will make a statement. [276385]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has given careful consideration to the recommendations contained in Lord Archer's report. We expect to publish the Government response to Lord Archer's report by the end of May.

3 June 2009

Health: Contaminated Blood Products

Questions

Lord Morris of Manchester

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate the Department of Health has made of the cost of the proposals set out in its response of 20 May to the report of the Independent Public Inquiry headed by Lord Archer of Sandwell into the infection of haemophilia patients with HIV and hepatitis C by contaminated NHS blood products; and whether they will provide a breakdown of the costs of each of the proposals in the response. [HL3891]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Lord Darzi of Denham): The estimated annual cost of honouring the Government's commitment to increase financial assistance available to those infected with HIV and their dependants is in the order of some millions of pounds. Our intention is that the annual payment to each infected individual should be double the average annual payment at present. The details of payments to infected individuals and to their dependants remain to be clarified through detailed discussion with the trustees of the Macfarlane and Eileen Trusts. Those discussions have commenced.

The estimated cost of the other proposals set out in the Government's response to Lord Archer's independent inquiry report on National Health Service supplied contaminated blood and blood products is £100,000 per annum until March 2014 to support the Haemophilia Society; £10,000 per annum to support twice-yearly meetings with the Haemophilia Alliance; and £50,000 to fund a look-back exercise to identify other patients with bleeding disorders who may have been infected via their treatment.

It is not possible at present to estimate the additional costs which may arise from Government's commitment to review, in 2014, the Skipton Fund, which makes payments to those infected with hepatitis C.

Lord Morris of Manchester

To ask Her Majesty's Government further to the remarks by Lord Darzi of Denham on 28 April (*Official Report*, House of Lords, col. 143) undertaking to assist in securing time for their response to the report of the Independent Public Inquiry headed by Lord Archer of Sandwell into the use of contaminated blood in the NHS treatment of haemophilia patients to be debated in the House of Lords, when the debate will take place; and whether they will indicate its timing, following their response to the Archer report being made by Written Statement. [HL3904]

Lord Darzi of Denham: The department would be happy to debate this issue in the House of Lords. However, all debate requests are subject to consultation and agreement with the Government Whips Office and the usual channels of the House.

15 June 2009

Lord Corbett of Castle Vale

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they will respond to the recommendation of the Independent Inquiry on NHS Supplied Contaminated Blood and Blood Products that the Government should review the conditions under which the widow of a patient infected by blood products now becomes eligible for financial assistance. [HL3972]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Lord Darzi of Denham): The Government responded to the recommendations of Lord Archer's report on 20 May 2009. We have committed to review the Skipton Fund, for those infected with hepatitis C, in 2014.

Payments to widows of those infected with HIV are made at the discretion of the trustees of the MacFarlane and Eileen Trusts.

Health: Haemophilia

Questions

Lord Morris of Manchester

To ask Her Majesty's Government further to the Written Answer by Lord Darzi of Denham on 14 May (WA 229—30) on the implications for haemophilia patients of a post-mortem having found vCJD in the spleen of one such patient, what was the outcome of the CJD Incidents Panel's consideration of the case and its implications on 20 May; who attended the panel's meeting; and why it was not held nearer to the date of the postmortem. [HL3959]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Lord Darzi of Denham): The Creutzfeldt Jakob disease (CJD) incidents panel, at its meeting on 20 May 2009, reviewed all available information in relation to the postmortem finding of abnormal prion protein associated with variant CID (vCJD) in a sample from the spleen of a haemophiliac.

The panel concluded that there is no evidence to change the current advice to those patients who used United Kingdom sourced pooled plasma products between 1980 and 2001 already notified as being at risk of vCJD for public health purposes, or to notify any new groups of patients.

Letters confirming this conclusion will be sent to UK Haemophilia Centre Doctors with information to pass on to their patients.

The panel meeting was attended by:

<i>Chairman</i>	
Mr David Pryer	Lay Chairman
<i>Deputy Chairman</i>	
Professor Don Jeffries	Virology
<i>Members</i>	
Dr Miles Allison	Gastroenterology
Dr Gerry Bryant	Public Health Medicine
Professor Geoff Craig	Dental Surgery
Dr Pat Hewitt	Blood Safety
Professor James Ironside	TSE Infectivity, Neuropathology
Mrs Diana Kloss	Law
Professor John Lumley	General Surgery
Mrs Caroline Ness	Lay Member
Dr Derek Norfolk	Haematology

Mr Ian Pearce	Ophthalmology
Dr Patrick Radford	Anaesthesiology
Dr Geoff Ridgway	Microbiology
Professor John Saunders	Medical Ethics
Ms Gillian Turner	Patient Support
Dr Hester Ward	Epidemiology
Professor Bob Will	Neurology
Ms Kate Woodhead	Theatre Nursing
Dr Tim Wyatt	Microbiology
Observers	
Dr Peter Bennett	HPIH&SD Analytical Team, Department of Health
Mr Stephen Dobra	HPIH&SD Analytical Team, Department of Health
Dr Sara Hayes (from fpm)	National Assembly of Wales
Miss Charlotte Mirrielees	Scientific Secretary, ACDP TSE Working Group
Mr Mark Noterman	Department of Health
Visitors	
Prof Frank Hill	UK Haemophilia Centre Doctors' Organisation
Dr Peter Rudge	Neurology
Secretariat	
Dr Nicky Connor	Health Protection Agency Centre for Infections
Ms Dominique Brookes	Health Protection Agency Centre for Infections
Ms Helen Janecek	Health Protection Agency Centre for Infections
Dr Elizabeth Rudd	Health Protection Agency Centre for Infections
Dr Akram Zaman	Health Protection Agency Centre for Infections

The meeting was held after all the evidence in this case, including multiple sets of case notes, hospital records and records of blood product usage, had been collected and reviewed and a full risk assessment prepared. Papers about this case are being prepared for publication and the risk assessment will be published on the department's website at dh.gov.uk on 9 June 2009.

Lord Morris of Manchester

To ask Her Majesty's Government further to the Written Answer by Lord Darzi of Denham on 14 May (WA 229—30), whether it remains the view of the Chief Medical Officer at the Department of Health that any risk to haemophilia patients of contracting vCJD from blood given from donors who subsequently died of vCJD is hypothetical. [HL3960]

Lord Darzi of Denham: There have been no clinical cases of vCJD amongst people with haemophilia who have been treated with United Kingdom-derived pooled plasma products or UK-derived coagulation factors. The view of the department, the chief medical officer and the Health Protection Agency remains that first set out in 2004, that patients

who have been treated with UK-sourced pooled factor concentrates and antithrombin between 1980 and 2001 are at increased risk of vCJD for public health purposes.

Lord Morris of Manchester

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the statement by Lord Thomas of Gresford on 23 April (*Official Report*, House of Lords, col. 1613) in the debate on the use of NHS blood products contaminated with HIV and hepatitis C in the treatment of haemophilia patients that if Ministers chose to back-date as necessary the waiving of Crown immunity it would still be possible for actions to be brought by those afflicted or bereaved by the contamination. [HL3961]

Lord Darzi of Denham: Crown immunity did not protect from civil suit, but only from prosecution under the Medicines Act. Some affected persons did bring an action in 1990, which was settled out of court. Affected persons did and do therefore have rights of redress in civil law.

16 Jun 2009

Lord Morris of Manchester

To ask Her Majesty's Government further to the Written Statement by Lord Darzi of Denham on 20 May (*WS 121—22*), what meetings have taken place between officials at the Department of Health and the Macfarlane Trust to ensure that the department had the latest data on the number of surviving persons with haemophilia who had been infected with HIV and hepatitis C by contaminated National Health Service blood products. [HL4130]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Lord Darzi of Denham): Departmental officials and officers of the Macfarlane Trust, have met many times in the past to keep each other updated. Most recently, officials met the chairman and officers of the Macfarlane Trust on 27 May 2009.

Lord Morris of Manchester

To ask Her Majesty's Government further to the Written Statement by Lord Darzi of Denham on 20 May (*WS 121—22*), what assessment they have made of how much it would cost for the provision of life insurance cover for patients infected with HIV or hepatitis C or both by contaminated National Health Service blood products to be at least as good as the provision made in the Republic of Ireland, as recommended by the Independent Public Inquiry headed by Lord Archer of Sandwell. [HL4132]

Lord Darzi of Denham:

Officials discussed the general issue of insurance for haemophiliacs with the Association of British Insurers. They advised that it is not possible to calculate the total cost of life insurance provision for patients infected with HIV or hepatitis C or both by contaminated National Health Service blood products as the premiums would vary for each individual and would be dependent on their particular circumstances.

The position in Ireland is different. The Irish Government set up their hepatitis C compensation scheme, and insurance arrangements, following the finding of a judicial inquiry, the Finlay report, that “wrongful acts were committed”. It is important to stress that the blood services in the United Kingdom (UK) have not been found to be similarly at fault. Payments are therefore being made in very different, specific circumstances in Ireland that do not apply in the UK.

16 June 2009

Health: Contaminated Blood Products

Questions

Lord Morris of Manchester

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Health: Contaminated Blood Products

Questions

Lord Morris of Manchester

To ask Her Majesty's Government further to the Written Statement by Lord Darzi of Denham on 20 May (WS 121—22), how the average annual payment of £6,400 for the Macfarlane Trust's beneficiaries was determined; and whether any meetings between officials at the Department of Health and the trust have demonstrated that the sum may need adjusting. [HL4131]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Lord Darzi of Denham): A broad indicator of the annual level of benefit currently available through the Macfarlane Trust was calculated by dividing the total number of beneficiaries into the total expenditure of the trusts, the result being an overall average of £6,400. Officials also referred to information from the trust about the amounts payable to individuals. There is no reason to adjust the £6,400 figure as the Government's response to Lord Archer's recommendations makes clear that in future all infected beneficiaries will receive £12,800 per annum.

Lord Morris of Manchester

To ask Her Majesty's Government further to the Written Statement by Lord Darzi of Denham on 20 May (WS 121—22), when the average annual payment made to the Macfarlane Trust's beneficiaries will be increased; whether payments will be back-dated to 20 May; and whether any payments made between 20 May and the date the new level is introduced will be discounted. [HL4134]

Lord Darzi of Denham: The Macfarlane Trust will be enabled to make flat rate payments to all infected beneficiaries of £12,800 per year with effect from 20 May 2009.

Lord Morris of Manchester

To ask Her Majesty's Government further to the Written Answer by Lord Darzi of Denham on 5 May (WA 100—01), whether Lord Darzi of Denham will now act on the assurance given to him by Mrs GRO-A the widow of a haemophilia patient contaminated by National Health Service blood products, that she has no objection to the text of the letter referred to in the question by Lord Roberts of Conwy being published in full in the *Official Report*. [HL4186]

Lord Darzi of Denham: The department received an assurance from Mrs GRO-A on 11 May 2009 that she had no objection to the text of her letter referred to in the Question by Lord Roberts of Conwy being published in full. The date of that letter was 9 March 2009 and a reply was sent on 21 April 2009, and copies of both of these are being placed in the Library.

18 Jun 2009

Baroness Campbell of Surbiton

To ask Her Majesty's Government further to the Written Statement by Lord Darzi of Denham on 20 May (*WS 122*), why they did not respond nor refer to the Archer report's recommendation (at page 109) calling for action to end the anomaly of basing entitlement to financial help of the widow of a fatally-infected haemophilia patient on the date of his death; and whether they will now respond to the recommendation. [HL4227]

Lord Darzi of Denham: The purpose of the Written Ministerial Statement on 20 May 2009 (*WS 122*) was to inform the House of the publication of the Government's response to the Archer report. The Government's response contains a commitment to review the Skipton Fund in 2014.

The Macfarlane and Eileen Trusts have always been able to make payments on a case by case basis to dependents of those entitled to financial relief, and that will remain the case.

23 Jun 2009

Dr. Iddon: Why has my right hon. Friend rejected Lord Archer's recommendation that patients who have contracted the hepatitis C virus from contaminated blood should receive the same compensation as those who contracted HIV from contaminated blood, as in the Irish Republic and several other countries?

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Gillian Merron): I deeply regret that patients have contracted serious infections as a result of NHS treatment 20 or more years ago. However, it is the different circumstances of patients that are reflected in the different financial arrangements. We will review the Skipton fund, which was set up for those infected with hepatitis C, in 2014, 10 years after its commencement. I cannot accept the comparison with Ireland, because the Irish blood transfusion service was found to be at fault, and that was not the case here.

25 June 2009

Health: Contaminated Blood Products

Question

Lord Morris of Manchester

To ask Her Majesty's Government further to the Written Statement by Lord Darzi of Denham on 20 May (*WS 121—22*), whether all payments made to beneficiaries of the Macfarlane Trust in consequence of the Written Statement will be increased in line with inflation. [HL4133]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Lord Darzi of Denham): This will be kept under review in the light of prevailing priorities for public expenditure.