

The Rt. Hon. the Lord Jenkin of Roding



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The Lord Warner

14th December 2004

Haemophilia

I enclose a letter I have had from a Mr. GRO-A who raises a number of subjects including a so-called secret Westminster-funded report into haemophilia and hepatitis non-A non-B between 1979 and 1982, for most of which time I was the Secretary of State for Health and Social Services. I also enclose a copy of my reply to Mr. GRO-A which makes it clear that because I was the Minister at the time he is enquiring about, I feel under some duty to try and satisfy his curiosity.

You will also see that I have no present recollection of any secret report into the subject, but it may be that the files could disclose something along those lines.

I would be most grateful if you could consult officials and let me know whether there is any point my taking this matter further. It is clear from Mr. GRO's letter that he has been in touch with other Parliamentarians, but as I was the Secretary of State at the time, perhaps I have a special obligation to try to help him.

I would, of course, be very happy to attend a meeting at the Department if this would be one way of taking the matter forward.



**BACKGROUND NOTE: FOLLOW UP TO PO5008535
LETTER FROM LORD JENKINS**

1. Lord Jenkins wrote to Lord Warner on 14 December about a letter he received from Mr [GRO-A], about haemophilia patients who were inadvertently infected with HIV and Hepatitis C through blood products. In his letter Mr [GRO-] requests copies of minutes of the NBTS, NBA and Haemophilia Centre Directors meetings.
2. Mr [GRO-] has written to the Department on numerous occasions, he would like access to these papers as part of an on-going campaign calling for a public inquiry into why so many patients were infected with HIV and Hepatitis C through contaminated blood and blood products.
3. Unfortunately, in this case the reply from Lord Warner to Lord Jenkins was drafted by the correspondence unit using a number of standard lines, and the reply did not fully address the points raised in the letter. It also left Lord Jenkins with the impression that we had inadequate file records. Lord Jenkins rang Sir Nigel's office to take up the issue of the Department's filing and document management system.
4. The draft letter seeks to reassure Lord Jenkins that DH does operate an effective records management system. We have also used this opportunity to give Lord Jenkins a fuller response to his letter.

Blood Policy Team
28 February 2005