

The Rt

(F)

oding



Please reply to:

House of Lords,  
Westminster,  
London SW1A 0PW.

Tel: GRO-C

Fax:

E-mail: jenkins@ GRO-C

The Lord Hunt of Kings Heath,  
Minister of State, Department of Health

8th January 2007

First, I must congratulate on your promotion to Minister of State. I am not sure whether you will be as pleased to find yourself back at the Department of Health, but you certainly <sup>know</sup> a great deal about the policy area.

I am writing to follow up some correspondence I have been having with your predecessor, Norman Warner, under the reference **MS(R) 101885**.

You will see from the papers that there are two ranges of documentation about contaminated blood, neither of which I was able to inspect when I came to the Department in 2005 to look over the files that must have passed across my desk as Secretary of State between 1979 and 1981. Your files will explain where these further documents have come from and you will see that Norman was perfectly happy that I should make another visit to the Department to inspect them. We left it that I would get in touch, hopefully, when the Department's officials had completed their work on the two sets of documents and the purpose of this letter is to find out whether your people are ready to show these files to me.

You will know that there continues to be a huge amount of distress and anger over the use of contaminated blood, mainly for haemophiliacs but also for others, based on plasma which was bought from the United States many years ago. A number of those involved have been hoping that I might use my role as a former Minister to try to find out whether there is any more evidence which might be of use to them.

I look forward to hearing from you.