



SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

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**SMOKING, HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE (SCOTLAND) BILL
SESSION on 10 MAY TO REVIEW CALL FOR A PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO INFECTION
WITH HEPATITIS C FROM NHS TREATMENT WITH BLOOD AND BLOOD PRODUCTS**

I apologise for the very short notice but I am writing to inform you that I am now unable to attend the session of the Health Committee scheduled for this afternoon at 2.45 to give evidence to the Committee in response to the Haemophilia Society Scottish Forum's request for a public inquiry into infection with Hepatitis C.

In view of the Petitions for judicial review of failure of the Scottish Ministers and the Lord Advocate to hold a public inquiry which were lodged with the Court of Session today (of which the Haemophiliac Society Scottish Forum will be aware) I am unable to assist the Committee in relation to its consideration of the case for a public inquiry. The Petitioners are claiming that they are legally entitled to have a public inquiry. Having only become aware of the content of the Petitions this afternoon, I, and the Lord Advocate, require to fully consider our legal position and respond to the claims made.

ANDY KERR