



Merck Sharp & Dohme Limited

Albert D Angel
Chairman & Managing Director

13th July 1982

K. Clarke, Esq., M.P.,
Minister of State for Health,
Department of Health & Social Security,
Alexander Fleming House,
Elephant & Castle,
London SE1 6BY

Dear Minister,

Thank you for your letter of 29th June 1982 concerning Hepatitis B. Vaccine. We regret your decision and would hope to have the opportunity to discuss it further at a later date with you or your officials.

As you are no doubt aware, the vaccine has aroused significant interest in medical journals and we have received numerous enquiries concerning availability from the profession. Further enquiries are likely to be stimulated by a major conference associated with the launch of the product in the United States this week and by such professional events as the forthcoming annual Congress on Liver Disease organised by the Department of Medicine at the Royal Free Hospital.

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Given your decision and the limited availability of the vaccine, we have taken steps to release the greater part of the intended United Kingdom allocation to other European countries. Furthermore, in light of all the circumstances, other than normal communication to the medical profession enclosing the Data Sheet and informing them that the vaccine will be available in small quantities in September, our professional information activities with respect to the vaccine will be limited.

We have taken these steps since, having established an excellent relationship over the years with successive Governments, we have no intention of prejudicing it.

Yours sincerely,

GRO-C: A Angel