

From: The Rt. Hon. The Lord Archer of Sandwell, Q.C.

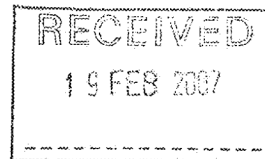
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DEPT OF HEALTH  
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I have agreed to chair an independent inquiry, to be held in public, into the circumstances surrounding the supply to patients of contaminated NHS blood and blood products, its consequences for the haemophilia community and others afflicted; and further steps to address both their problems and needs and those of bereaved families.

Lord Turnbull, immediate past President of the Royal College of Physicians, and other medical assessors have kindly agreed to help and sit with me on the inquiry.

I shall be opening the inquiry in four weeks or so from now with a brief statement about its purpose and how we intend to proceed, followed by one setting out the historical background. This is intended to be factual and the inquiry will then adjourn.

The present plan (which may change) is that we will start taking evidence a week or so later.

It will be much appreciated if someone from the Department can be available, on a mutually agreed date, to say what its position has been and is; and to lay before us any further facts, of which you think we should be aware.

I know you will want to help all you can.

Warmest regards,

**GRO-C**