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GRO-C

Cynulliad
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National
Assembly for
Wales



From the Minister of State
Caroline Flint MP



PO00000090353

15 MAY 2006

Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2NS

Tel: **GRO-C**

Jenny Randerson
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
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11 MAY 2006

Dear Jenny

Thank you for your further letter of 4 April on behalf of your constituents Mr and Mrs Lewis of **GRO-C**, **GRO-C** Cardiff **GRO-C** about patients infected with contaminated blood products following NHS treatment.

I am aware that some people would like the Government to set up a public inquiry into this issue. We have great sympathy for those infected with hepatitis C and have considered the call for a public inquiry very carefully.

However, as previously stated, the Government does not accept that any wrongful practices were employed and does not consider that a public inquiry is justified. Donor screening for hepatitis C was introduced in the UK in 1991 and the development of this test marked a major advance in microbiological technology, which could not have been implemented before this time.

I am sorry that this is not the answer Mr and Mrs Lewis may have hoped for, but I hope it clarifies the situation for them.

Yours

GRO-C

CAROLINE FLINT