



**Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru**  
**The National Assembly for Wales**

Jan Wallace

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Eich cyf / Your Ref  
Ein cyf / Our Ref AT 06214/00

Dyddiad / Date 25 August 2000

*Dear Ms Wallace,*

Thank you for your letter to Jane Hutt AM dated 16 July 2000 concerning compensation for Haemophiliacs who have contracted Hepatitis C via NHS treatment. I have been asked to reply.

The decision not to hold a public inquiry was made in consultation with officials and health professionals. It was decided to continue to work towards providing all haemophiliacs including those infected with Hepatitis C with the best possible care.

With regards to the National Institute of Clinical Excellence (NICE) report on the combination anti-viral therapy of interferon with ribavirin for Hepatitis C. NICE have produced a provisional report which is circulating for comment to the various relevant bodies. A final report which will be circulated to the same group of people who will have an opportunity to appeal against its findings. If there is no appeal the guidance will be issued to the NHS in England and Wales and will be available to the public in various forms.

Currently the provisional findings are confidential and at this stage I am not able to anticipate when the final guidance will be issued..

The Vaccine Damage Payment Scheme you refer to has been in operation since 1979 based on the recommendations of the Pearson Commission. It is a scheme operated by the Department of Social Security and therefore I cannot comment on its management nor draw comparison to compensation for haemophiliacs infected via NHS treatment.



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- We have previously stated the Assembly's position on the issue of compensation and that position remains unchanged.

I am sorry that I cannot send a more welcome response.

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Sue Paterson  
Health Services Division

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