

Our ref: **GRO-C**

*Richmond House  
79 Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2NS  
Tel: 020 7210 4850*

Mr Stephen Wintle

**GRO-C**

22 June 2009

Dear Mr Wintle,

Thank you for your letter of 16 June to Andy Burnham about the Archer report. I have been asked to reply.

This Government deeply regrets that patients acquired serious infections as a result of NHS treatment some two or more decades ago, and extends every sympathy to the patients and their families who have suffered as a result of the very treatments that should have transformed their lives for the better.

The Government understands the sense of grievance that some people may feel as a result of what has happened, and that there are deeply held opinions on the appropriateness and timeliness of decisions and actions taken many years ago. In his report, Lord Archer did not find the government of the day to have been at fault, and did not apportion blame.

The Department is committed to ensuring that people with haemophilia, and others who have been infected with hepatitis C and/or HIV from blood and blood products, are well cared for, supported in their communities and fully informed about how best to look after their health. The Department gave very careful consideration to Lord Archer's recommendations to see what more it could do, and has made as positive a response as possible.

The response to Lord Archer's report has been published on the Department's website at:

[www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publichealth/Healthprotection/Bloodsafety/index.htm](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publichealth/Healthprotection/Bloodsafety/index.htm)

I hope this clarifies the Government's position on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

**GRO-C**

Paul Larkin  
Customer Service Centre  
Department of Health