

Secretary of state for Health
Andy Burnham MP
Richmond house
79 Whitehall
London
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That was
29th of June 2009

GRO-C

Dear Mr Burnham

Regarding your response to my letter of the 16th of June

Your reply via Paul Larkin at the Department of Health does not answer my questions! If you have read the Archer Inquiry you will realise that whilst Lord Archer chose not to name and shame individuals involved in this 30 year blood scandal, he does however say "it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that commercial interests took precedence over public health concerns" In My view and the conclusion of not just Lord Archer and his panel but the haemophilia society and its members, the governments of the 1970's until the present have chosen to ignore the serious consequences of past governments failures to protect a patient group who were reliant on clean blood products

I believe it is vital that you should acknowledge the damage to their health and the financial effects to their lives, because of government policy. Failure to implement self sufficiency in blood products, coupled with ignoring warnings about importing American plasma which was contaminated with multiple life threatening viruses supplied by drug companies ,who were happy to take blood supplies from prisoners, drug addicts, and paid donors, from the worst socio economic community's in America resulted in contaminating the haemophilia community.

You proclaim in your letter to me that the Department of Health is "committed to ensuring that people with haemophilia and others who have been infected with hepatitis C and /or contracted HIV from blood products are well cared for, supported in their communities and fully informed about how best to look after their health!" This is absolute nonsense. My wife has no access to any such groups within our community. Even more insulting is the fact that she has to pay for prescriptions for her severe medical conditions, as a direct result of her NHS treatment in 1976, 1982, and in 1985, from exposure to Hepatitis Band C which have resulted in her now being diagnosed with cirrhosis of the liver. Worst still is the governments past and present failures to acknowledge the financial repercussions to myself and others affected in the same way, which has meant that I and my child are now at risk of losing the roof over our heads.

I have already explained to you that I will have to give up my professional career to look after my wife, when her condition deteriorates. I ask you again, who is going to pay our mortgage, and who is going to finance nursing care? In addition if this were not bad enough, my wife has been advised that she has also through her NHS treatment been exposed to the blood of a donor who has subsequently died from nv CJD in the UK!

For God's sake do something about this awful scenario. 2000 haemophiliacs have died in horrific circumstances, and 2.500 will die in the same way including my wife.

The present government are only interested in their loss of political position. Gordon Brown has lost his political high ground and his moral compass, so what are you and your shadow cabinet prepared to do to put right an issue that has been shockingly ignored for far too long?

I want a response from you quickly please

Your Sincerely

Mr Steve Wintle