

Witness Name: Glenn Wilkinson

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Dated: 14 August 2020

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

EXHIBIT WITN2050068

Lord Morris of Manchester asked Her Majesty's Government:

Further to the Written Answer by the Baroness Jay of Paddington on 28 July (WA 188), whether they will place a copy of Baroness Hayman's reply to the **Haemophilia** Society's letter of 24 June in the Library of the House.[HL3728]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Baroness Hayman):

The answer given previously referred to a letter to the **Haemophilia** Society from my right honourable friend the Secretary of State for Health which dealt with issues relevant, but not in direct response, to the Society's letter of 24 June.

A reply to that letter was sent to the Society on 21 August. My response dealt with the specific issues raised in their 24 June letter and we have received the Society's permission for a copy to be placed in the Library.

Haemophiliacs with Hepatitis C: Financial Help

28 July 1998

Lord Morris of Manchester asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether they will set out in the Official Report their response to the points made in the **Haemophilia** Society's letter to the Department of Health of 24 June about the debate on 5 June concerning financial assistance for people with **haemophilia** infected with hepatitis C.[HL2944]

Baroness Jay of Paddington: My right honourable friend the Secretary of State for Health has today written to the **Haemophilia** Society in response to its letter of 24 June, which was addressed to the Baroness Ramsay. With their permission, I shall place a copy in the Library.

28 Jul 1998 : Column WA189

Lord Morris of Manchester asked Her Majesty's Government:

When they expect to announce the outcome of the Secretary of State for Health's consideration of the case for financial help for people with **haemophilia** who were infected with hepatitis C by their NHS treatment; and whether the announcement will be made by oral statement to Parliament.[HL3058]

Baroness Jay of Paddington: My right honourable friend the Secretary of State for Health has today written to the **Haemophilia** Society explaining that, after lengthy and very careful consideration, we have concluded that haemophiliacs who have been infected with hepatitis C through National Health Service treatment should not receive special payments.

Government policy is that compensation or other financial help to particular patients or groups of patients is only paid out where the NHS or individuals working in it have been at fault. The needs of people whose condition results from inadvertent harm are met from benefits available to the population in general. On that basis, we have decided not to make an exception to the general rule in the case of haemophiliacs infected with hepatitis C.

While the society makes a special case for haemophiliacs because the infection comes on top of a pre-existing serious long term medical condition, the same considerations apply to other individual patients and groups of patients, whether inadvertently infected with another illness or

harm as a result of another medical or surgical procedure, who can only obtain compensation if there has been negligence. The society also argued that, as government provides financial help to haemophiliacs infected with HIV, this scheme should be extended to cover people with hepatitis C. However our view is the circumstances were different: the stigma around HIV at the time the original decision was taken, the fact that it was generally considered a sexually transmitted disease and that haemophiliacs could inadvertently infect their partners were all important considerations which do not apply to hepatitis C.

The society was particularly concerned that young people were fearful of the possibility of passing on hepatitis C. That is a concern we share. The department is therefore working with the society to develop a project aimed at helping young people with **haemophilia** and related disorders who are infected with hepatitis C to understand their condition and so improve their future health, education and employment prospects. We will help with funding for this project.

In an earlier decision, we have already agreed that recombinant Factor VIII is made available to children under 16 and to new patients.

Haemophiliacs with Hepatitis C: Financial Help

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Haemophiliacs Infected with Hepatitis C

Lord Morris of Manchester asked Her Majesty's Government:

How many people with **haemophilia** have been infected with hepatitis C by contaminated NHS blood products. [HL2805]

Baroness Jay of Paddington: The Department of Health estimates that around 4,000 people with **haemophilia** were infected with hepatitis C through blood products prior to the introduction of viral inactivation processes in 1985.

Hepatitis "C": Haemophilia Society's Representation

2 July 1998

Lord Morris of Manchester asked Her Majesty's Government:

What further representations they have had from the **Haemophilia** Society following the debate on 5 June about financial assistance for people with **haemophilia** infected with hepatitis "C" by their NHS treatment; what replies they are sending; and whether there is any action they will be taking. [HL2423]