

The first point that I would like to make is that we have not ignored Lord Archer's recommendations. The majority of them are actually now in place in one form or another.

On 14 October 2010 I announced that the Department would not be accepting Lord Archer's recommendation 6(h) that those affected should receive payments that are at least the equivalent of those payable under the scheme in the Republic of Ireland, but that we would conduct a review of a number of specific aspects of the support available to this patient group. The review included a number of Lord Archer's recommendations that had not then been implemented.

I appreciate that Mr Jones might be disappointed by the outcome of the review, but the review report explains how the decisions were reached. In particular, all decisions on payments to individuals infected with hepatitis C were based on an expert scientific review of the evidence base on the spectrum and impact of disease associated with hepatitis C infection. A copy of this report can be found on the Department of Health website at: [http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\\_4130917](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4130917).

In his statement to the House on 10 January 2010, the Secretary of State for Health made a public apology. The time to have held a public inquiry was much closer to the events in question. Previous governments decided not to hold an Inquiry. The issue now is how best to support those affected.