

Our Reference: **PO116/2001**

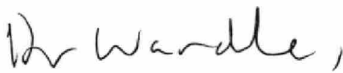
30<sup>th</sup> October 2001

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cc Dr Keith Jones  
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Dr Philip Edwards  
Charles Lister

Dear ,

Thank you for your letter of 9<sup>th</sup> February 2001 about albumin manufactured from a plasma pool that included a donation from someone who was later diagnosed with variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD). I am very sorry not to have replied before now.

Since you wrote, there have been some important developments with regard to the advice we would give to patients in such instances. You may be aware that last year I set up a CJD Incidents Panel under the chairmanship of Reverend Professor Michael Banner to provide advice on action to take if a patient develops CJD some time after having undergone an invasive medical procedure or having donated blood, organs or tissues.

Over recent months, the Panel has given careful consideration to their advice and has on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2001 put out for consultation to interested parties a proposed framework of guidance on the handling of incidents. I attach copies of the Department's associated press release and the Panel's documents. Within the proposed guidance, those who have received implicated albumin products are seen by the Panel as being likely to be of a low risk of developing disease (para 5.18). The Panel proposes that anyone in this category would not be told directly, but would be able to enquire about their position if they so chose. To assist with this process, a database would be compiled.

It is by no means certain at this stage which of the Panel's proposals will survive the consultation process. The Department will take stock early next year, once comments have been received. In the light of those comments, we will then move on to formulate definitive guidance. I shall write to you at that time with further details.

Yours sincerely,

GRO-C

**PROFESSOR LIAM DONALDSON  
CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER**

Encs.