

The Rt. Hon. the Lord Owen CH

Tel:
Fax:
Secretary
Fax:

GRO-C

Email: lordowen@GRO-C



House of Lord
Westminste
London SW1A 0PA

The Rt Hon John Reid MP
Secretary of State for Health
Department of Health
Richmond House
Whitehall
London SW1

PRIVATE OFFICE CC11
CONFIDENCE

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DEPT OF HEALTH
RECEIVED

Dear John Reid

I was very pleased to read of your decision to make compensation available to haemophiliacs who have contracted HIV through contaminated blood products. I will watch carefully for the details of the scheme. I hope you will be as generous as possible.

At a meeting on 1 July 2002, which unfortunately at the last moment I was unable to attend, Hazel Blears told Lord Morris and Michael Connarty MP that your Department had set in train a study of its records going back over the history of the Department's original commitment to self-sufficiency and covering the period of particular interest to me. The study was expected to take several months.

I was much encouraged by this exercise particularly since when I tried myself to go back over my own Ministerial papers I was extremely surprised to be told that all my papers had been pulped without any reference to me! So I am interested to know what your internal investigation may have revealed if anything and whether it is this study which has led to your announcement.

Yours sincerely

GRO-C

DAVID OWEN