

**DEPARTMENT OF CLINICAL & LABORATORY HAEMATOLOGY**

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Dr. J. Hanley  
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Dear John,

There is nothing like a baptism of fire to start a new job. I am sorry that you seem to be running into difficulties with events that occurred long before your appointment. The things I would suggest you do are first of all to contact BPL about the 1997 recall and get the details of the products that were involved, if that information is not to hand in the Centre in Newcastle. The advice at that time that was coming following considerations by the Lothian Ethics Committee was that as the risk was theoretical, perhaps it was better not to inform people as this might cause anxiety. However, there was no consensus of view amongst the Haemophilia Centre Directors Organisation and it was left to each Centre to handle it as it saw fit. We contacted all of our patients, saw them for counselling and gave them the opportunity to know, or not to know, whichever they felt the most comfortable with. Obviously Sister Fearn and Dr. Hamilton should be able to fill you in with the discussions that took place locally and why staff at the Haemophilia Centre in Newcastle decided to follow the Department of Health's advice. That advice was circulated with the papers for the UKHCDO Advisory Committee on 15.01.2001 and so your colleague should have a copy of that for you to see. I think the only thing you can say to the individuals concerned is that you are sorry that they were not given the opportunity to know but at that time the advice that was coming from the Department of Health was as set out in the document that I have referred to. If you want to discuss things further, do not hesitate to contact me.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

**GRO-C**

**Dr. F.G.H. Hill**  
**Consultant Paediatric Haematologist**

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