

**THE SCOTTISH OFFICE**

Department of Health

NHS Management Executive
St. Andrew's House
Edinburgh EH1 3DGTelephone 0131-244 2799
Fax 0131-244 2069Professor Ian Franklin
Medical and Scientific Director
SNBTS
21 Ellen's Glen Road
EDINBURGH
EH17 7QT

10 June 1998

Dear Ian

HCV LOOKBACK

As you know this was on the agenda at the meeting of MSBT on 4 June, and the specific issue of whether SNBTS should draw a line under the lookback exercise was discussed. There was general agreement that all reasonable measures have been taken to trace components and recipients in Scotland, and that the tracing exercise could therefore stop. However, it was also agreed that the lookback exercise could not be considered formally closed until reasons for non-traceability of components or recipients had been logged on the lookback register. There is still a great deal of work to be done throughout the UK in this area, and Angela Robinson did make the point that it is labour intensive. Nonetheless, Ministers will need to be satisfied that the reasons for non-follow-up of components and recipients are very clearly documented and justifiable. I would therefore ask that SNBTS continue their efforts to provide this information to the register, as the lookback exercise cannot be considered complete until this has been accomplished.

There was also some discussion about the latest figures provided from Scotland, and Angela Robinson pointed out that they did not "add up". I have no doubt that Jack Gillon will be able to clarify the figures with Angela in due course.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely

DR A KEEL
Senior Medical OfficerCopy to: Dr Jack Gillon, Edinburgh & SE Scotland RTC
Mr John Aldridge, SODH