Mr Davies
Mr Hoy, SIO

Copy to: Dr McIntyre
Mr Murray

HAEMOPHILIACS WITH ANTIBODIES TO HTLV III

I had phone calls last night from Dr McClelland, Dr Ludlam and Dr Cash (in that order) letting me know there is likely to be publicity in the Yorkshire Post, tomorrow, relating to the Edinburgh haemophiliacs with HTLV III antibodies attributable to contamination of a Scottish batch of factor VIII. It has to be presumed that this has been leaked by one of the English haemophiliac directors involved in last Monday's meeting of the UK Haemophilia Reference Centre Directors.

One of Lothian HB's Press Officers has been in touch with SIO. You may wish to discuss what should be the Department's response to this development. I understand that Dr Cash has also spoken to you direct.

Since dictating the above Dr Ludlam has informed me that the Yorkshire Post journalist has agreed to postpone his report until Thursday, 20 December. This will enable the Haemophilia Consultants to call a meeting of haemophilia patients to explain the situation. In view of this development I advise that SHHD should not publicise this matter before the patients themselves have been informed professionally.

It would be important for Dr Ludlam to be able to assure the journalist as soon as possible that we do not intend to anticipate his publication.

A E BELL
12 December 1984

Room 25
SAH