

Ms Tracey Turnbull
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Dear Tracey

Re: Professor Goldberg – Further request regarding Statistics

Thank you for your emailed message dated 6 March, containing a paper and letter dated 28 February from Professor Goldberg. The Inquiry would like to thank Professor Goldberg and his team for the time and effort that has gone into producing such a detailed narrative.

We have noted Professor Goldberg's willingness to answer further queries and, in that regard, have some further short points which we would like to put to him. These are outlined below.

In addition, Professor James has prepared a paper setting out his own research on the numbers infected, and we enclose a copy of that for Professor Goldberg's comments.

a) Assumption iii ***Reduction in the number of HCV-positive donors in the donor population as a result of deferral policy.*** The figure of 66% which is assumed to have been the reduction in HCV prevalence in the donor population effected by the deferral policy in 1984, seems large. We appreciate that the larger the percentage selected, the larger would be the total number of infectees, but nonetheless are interested to have more information about how this figure was arrived at. It is said to have derived from "limited local data and expert opinion". May we have more details of each of these?

Additionally, the dates do not appear quite to match with our information. Measures were first introduced in Edinburgh in June 1983, not 1984. And UK

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wide measures were introduced from 1 September 1983. (Both these references can be obtained from [PEN.001.0001] at page 0005). Of course, these may be points of no real consequence in the modelling exercise and, if so, perhaps Professor Goldberg could confirm this.

Lastly on this point, why is the figure in Table 1 for 1984 (0.029) not 34% of the figure for 1983 (0.067) if there has been a 66% reduction from 1983 to 1984?

b) Assumption iv. ***HCV prevalence in the donor population between 1970 and 1990.*** We would be interested in further comment from Professor Goldberg on the justification for the assumption that movement in the percentage of HCV positive donors would take place mirroring that, which occurred in the proportion of HCV positive IV drug users. Professor James's paper details further thinking on this, and we do not intend to repeat his thoughts here.

Lastly, we wondered if it would be possible for the model to be re-run with the omission of Assumptions iii) and iv)? We would be interested to see the result of such a re-run. We make this request in the belief that this will not involve a large amount of additional work, and would of course expect to hear back from you if we are wrong about that

Thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter.

Yours sincerely



Janet Marsh