

Fife NHS Board

Department of Public Health
Cameron House
Cameron Bridge
Leven KY8 5RG
Telephone 01592 712472
Fax 01592 226925
www.show.scot.nhs.uk/fnb



Police Division 1
Scottish Executive Justice Department
Area 1W
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

Date 19 May 2005
Your Ref
Our Ref CS/LM/JB/29017
Enquiries to Dr C Saunders
Dept fax 01592 226925
Direct Line 01592 226526
Email charles.saunders@nhs.net

BLOOD TESTING FOLLOWING CRIMINAL INCIDENTS WHERE THERE IS A RISK OF INFECTION – PROPOSALS FOR LEGISLATION

Thank you for seeking the views of NHS Fife on the above. NHS Fife does not support mandatory blood testing for HIV, hepatitis B or hepatitis C. This is because:

- There is no post-exposure prophylaxis for hepatitis C.
- All people at occupational risk of hepatitis B infection should be offered immunisation.
- Post-exposure prophylaxis for HIV needs to be undertaken ideally within an hour of exposure and would not be stopped following a negative test as seroconversion can take 3 months.
- The risk of infection is extremely low and the proposals do not appear to be proportionate to that risk.

Yours sincerely

DR LESLEY MACDONALD
Director of Public Health