

ALL PARTY DISABLEMENT GROUP

Research Assistant: Victoria Scott

GRO-C



please reply to:
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HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

26 October 1992

Rt Hon John Major MP
Prime Minister, First Lord of the Treasury, Minister for The Civil Service
10 Downing Street
London
SW1

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We are writing on behalf of the All Party Disablement Group to express our deepest concern over reports that people with haemophilia who were infected with HIV by contaminated blood transfusions now face being denied a treatment that could prolong their lives.

A Department of Health document insists that specific funds earmarked for AIDS patients should not be used to meet the necessary extra costs for people with haemophilia who have HIV. The Terrence Higgins Trust, which campaigns for people with HIV and AIDS is supporting The Haemophilia Society in calling for the ring-fenced AIDS budget to be used to provide high purity Factor VIII products for people with haemophilia who have HIV.

Factor VIII is essential to replace the clotting agent absent from the blood of haemophiliacs but the purified product also slows the deterioration of the Immune System in people with HIV.

Dr Tony Aronstram, Director of a regional haemophilia centre, has reported that he had to switch 20 haemophilia patients with HIV to the cheaper Factor VIII in order to provide seriously ill people with the purified version.

The nationwide figure of patients needing purified Factor VIII is only around 1,000. We in the All Party Disablement Group believe strongly that the Government should withdraw the recent Department of Health document and allow the use of ring fenced AIDS budgets to treat haemophiliacs with HIV.

Yours ever,
GRO-C

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GRO-C

Rt Hon Lord Ashley of Stoke CH

Sir John Hannam MP

cc: Rt Hon Mrs Virginia Bottomley MP

Rt Hon Lord Ashley CH : Chair (Lords)
Sir John Hannam MP : Chair (Commons)

Dafydd Wigley MP : Vice-Chair
Peter Thurnham MP : Vice-Chair

Gordon McMaster MP : Secretary