

Skipton Fund Annual Review (2014/15), 8 October 2015
12noon, MR5, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London, SW1A 2NS

Attendees

Peter Stevens
Nick Fish
Ailsa Wight
Rowena Jecock
Naomi Balabanoff
John Reidy

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Minutes from the previous meeting
 - a. NF updated that since the previous meeting, the 30 untraced had now reduced to only 11 (with confirmation that 19 of the 30 had died), and only 3 are registered with a GP. Of the 8 not registered with a GP, some may have moved out of England/Wales and therefore be harder to trace through such records.
3. Annual report and accounts 2014/15
 - a. PS presented the accounts, for a quite routine year. There was a noticeable reduction in turnover, which was largely a result of a significant reduction in the number of top-up payments being made.
 - b. Publicity had generated a larger number of Stage 1 applications (and payments) than were anticipated at the start of the year.
 - c. An increasing proportion of applications are difficult due to the time since the infections occurred. Applications which are not straightforward are considered by the medical Directors of the Fund. There were also more borderline Stage 2 applications, which are often deferred based on the evidence provided. Such applications are also often considered by the medical Directors, whose expertise is appreciated. Where history is less clear, fibroscan levels, and other evidence, are considered, and the medical directors give an expert view, taking all evidence into account.
 - d. About a third of those coming forward are paid both Stage 1 and Stage 2 payments at the same time.
4. Current year 2015/16
 - a. AW thanked NF for the data he provides, both regularly and from ad hoc requests. RJ outlined that DH would appreciate any genotype data that the Fund holds (anonymised), as it will help with modelling the Department is doing; NF agreed to meet with DH analysts to discuss.
5. AOB, to include:

- a. Appeals Panel has been re-appointed for a further year, but DH is waiting for the confirmation letters from the panel members. The panel met three times last year, considering about 15 cases each time. The caseload for the appeals panel has dropped since the appointment of medical Directors to the Fund.
- b. VAT: The Skipton Fund plans to de-register for VAT, and has been liaising with DH's VAT officer about this.
- c. HCV litigation: The Skipton Fund and Caxton Foundation wrote to Leigh Day to say that they weren't planning on taking further action and have not heard anything since.
- d. Directors: Elizabeth Boyd's term is ending this year, and she may not want to renew. Possibly the same for Pat Spellman. May need to consider appointments in light of any scheme changes.