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From the Minister of State

Your ref: CAL/AT

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Dr A. Ludlam,

Thank you for your letter of 29 August to Frank Dobson about care for people with haemophilia, and in particular the availability of recombinant Factor VIII.

I have noted the points made in your letter. As you point out, the terms of reference for a Comprehensive Spending Review across Departments were published on 24 July. This will review all aspects of this Department's spending in the context of the Government's election manifesto commitment "if you are ill or injured there will be a national health service there to help; and access to it will be based on need and need alone - not on your ability to pay, or on who your GP happens to be or on where you live". I am pleased to see that the United Kingdom Haemophilia Centre Directors' Organisation (UKHCDO) intends to submit views to this review in the near future.

We have, of course, also made clear our policy that treatment decisions should focus on high quality research evidence about clinical effectiveness, safety and long-term patient outcomes.

As our earlier reply promised, we will keep in mind the UKHCDO's proposals for a meeting, following the meeting with the Haemophilia Society, and once Ministers have the opportunity to consider these matters further.

Baroness Jay
GRO-C

BARONESS JAY OF PADDINGTON