

6087

From the Minister of State  
Caroline Flint MP



Department  
of Health

Richmond House  
79 Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2NS

Tel: 020 7210 3000

PO00000136136

Mr **GRO-A**

**GRO-A**

Glasgow

**GRO-A**

*Dear Mr*

**GRO-A**

Thank you for your letter of 24 August to Tony Blair about funding for the Eileen Trust. I am replying as the Minister responsible for this policy area.

Representatives of the Eileen Trust and the closely associated Macfarlane Trust, which looks after haemophiliacs who were infected with HIV by blood or blood products, met with me on 12 July and presented their case.

Having considered all the points that were made at the meeting, including trends in numbers of registrants and the level of benefits available from the Trusts' funds, I agreed an increase of £400,000 for the two Trusts, of which the Eileen Trust's new funding was £177,000. This represents an increase of approximately 11 per cent to the Trust's funding, which I believe will maintain an appropriate level of support to the registrants and is within the current level of Government funding that is available.

In addition to the new funding of £177,000, the Eileen Trust will also receive a further £37,000 towards its administration costs, which will bring total funding to £214,000.

I have the greatest sympathy for all the registrants of the Eileen Trust and their families. I appreciate that you are disappointed by the settlement, but the Department has to manage within its available resources. I am pleased that advances in treatment have increased the life expectancy of many of the Trust's registrants. This means, of course, that the need for the Eileen Trust continues and I can assure you that the Government remains committed to it.

I hope this reply clarifies the Department's position.

*Yours sincerely*

**GRO-C**

CAROLINE FLINT