

Ms Smith PS/PS(H)

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Date: 31 March 1993

cc: Mr Heppell HSSG
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File ~~ACO 16~~
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HIV INFECTED BLOOD AND TISSUE RECIPIENTS - SPECIAL NEEDS TRUST

1. PS(H) will recall from my notes of 16 February and 11 March that we have been taking steps to set up a new special needs trust (the Eileen Trust) for HIV infected blood and tissue recipients. The Trust was formally established on 29 March and a payment of £0.5m was made to it. We are asking if PS(H) wishes to answer an inspired PQ to place on record that the Trust is now in existence.

2. When Ministers announced in February 1992 that lump sum payments were to be given to those infected with HIV through blood or tissue transfer, it was also made known that a special needs trust would be set up. On previous occasions when trusts have been set up for those with HIV an inspired PQ has been used to announce it.

3. There is a risk that an announcement at this time will encourage those campaigning on behalf of human growth hormone recipients but PS(H) may feel it is necessary to place on the Parliamentary record that the Trust has been established. In due course DSS will be laying Regulations to disregard payments from the Trust for the purposes of means tested benefits. We are not proposing a press release since the Department will be writing to those who have established entitlement under the lump sum payment Scheme and who may become beneficiaries of the Eileen Trust.

4. A suggested PQ and Answer is attached.

GRO-C

J CANAVAN

Draft Inspired Question and Answer

To ask the Secretary of State for Health what arrangements have been made for the special needs of those infected with HIV through blood or tissue transfer in the United Kingdom.

Suggested reply

In addition to the payments announced on 17 February 1992 (Column 12-13) I am pleased to announce that the Government has made a grant of £0.5m to the Eileen Trust, which has been set up to provide for the special needs of HIV infected blood and tissue recipients and their dependants throughout the United Kingdom.