

Haemophiliacs

Sir Michael McNair-Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health why the haemophiliac sufferers contaminated with the HIV virus have not yet received the capital sum promised them via the McFarlane Trust: and when he expects the payments to be made.

Mrs. Virginia Bottomley: Detailed arrangements for payment of the ex-gratia sums announced by my right hon. and learned Friend the Secretary of State for Health on 23 November 1989 at columns 11-12 are being finalised. Discussions with the McFarlane Trust are almost complete and we hope that it will be possible to start making the payments within a matter of days. A further statement will be made as soon as possible.