

To: Mr K Guinness CA-OPU

From: Nick Fahy PS/PS(H)

Date: 3 January 1997

Copies: Ms Sandell PS/SofS
Mr Marron PS/PS(C)
Mr Staniforth CAD
Mr Orton SC2
Mr Stopes-Roe RMF-DPSS
Mr Bassett CA-OPU1
Ms Corrigan CA-OPU2

Section 64 General Scheme 1997/98 Round: OPU bids

1. Thank you for your submission of 19 December seeking approval from PS(H) for four continuing grants and two renewal grants under section 64 within the OPU policy area. PS(H) is content to approve the bids as you recommend.

Nick Fahy
Pr/Off
414 RH **GRO-C**

Mr Fahy, PS/PS(H)

From: KEVIN GUINNESS, CA-OPU
Date: 19 December 1996

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Ms Corrigan, CA-OPU2

SECTION 64 GENERAL SCHEME 1997/98 ROUND: OPU BIDS**Purpose of Submission**

- As proposed in Mr Orton's submission of 3 December, this submission puts forward bids from the Operational Policy Unit (OPU) for the 1997/98 round of section 64 General Scheme funding.

Recommendation

- PS(H) is invited to approve the following grants:-

	1996/97 £000	1997/98 £000	1998/99 £000	1999/00 £000
Continuing Commitments				
Council for Music in Hospitals (paragraph 1)	[25.0]	25.0	0.0	0.0
Arts for Health (paragraph 2)	[25.0]	25.0	25.0	0.0
Macfarlane Trust (paragraph 3)	[173.0]	177.0	181.0	*
Eileen Trust (paragraph 3)	[22.0]	22.5	23.0	*
Renewal Grants				
Haemophilia Society (core grant) (paragraphs 3-11)	[38.0]	140.0	*	*
Haemophilia Society (project grant) (paragraphs 3-11)	[117.0]	60.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL	[400.0]	[449.5]	229.0*	*

* further bids expected in due course
1996/97 figures are given for purposes of comparison.

- Decisions are only required in relation to the Haemophilia Society. PS(H) will appreciate the importance of being seen to provide additional assistance to the Society in its work with haemophiliacs infected with hepatitis C.
- There have been no applications for new grants within OPU's field of interest this

year.

5. Detailed information is given in the Annex. Paragraph references are given in the table.

K J GUINNESS
Room 303
Ext. GRO-C
Eileen House

Continuing Commitments**Council for Music in Hospitals**

1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00
[£25k] £25k	0	0	

1. 1997-98 will be the third year of a three year core grant of £25,000 per year to the Council for Music in Hospitals which organises concerts for patients in hospitals.

Arts for Health

1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00
[£25k] £25k	£25k	0	

2. 1997-98 will be the second year of a three year core grant to Arts for Health which facilitates partnerships between artists and health professionals aimed at improving healthcare environments.

Macfarlane Trust

1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/2000
[£173k]	£177k	£181k	*

Eileen Trust

1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/2000
[£22k] £22.5k	£23k		*

* further bids expected in due course

3. 1997/98 will be the second year of three year grants for these trusts, in pursuance of a Ministerial commitment to meet their administration costs in distributing funds made available by the Government to people infected with HIV through blood or blood products, and their families. (The Macfarlane Trust caters for haemophiliacs, and the Eileen Trust for others.) Further bids are likely at the appropriate time for future years.

Recommended renewal grants - in priority order

Haemophilia Society - project grant

1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/2000
£117k	£60k (last year)	-	-

Haemophilia Society - core grant

1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/2000
£38k	£140k	*	*

* further bids likely at the appropriate time

4. The Haemophilia Society's Hepatitis ABC project began in 1995 and aims to identify the needs of haemophilia patients who have been infected with hepatitis C, and their families, to raise public awareness and to empower those who have been infected to manage their condition and lives. Some of the research has already been completed, and lessons learnt from it (eg the need for fact sheets and a telephone enquiry line have been identified). It is intended in the final year of the project (1997/98) to publish the findings, and also to do some additional work, eg through conferences, and with those infected also with HIV.
5. We recommend that the project grant bid be met in full to allow the Society to complete their planned project work. This year's bid is some 50% lower than their current year project grant, and is in line with the requirement that the grant be wound up in its fourth year. The broader reasons for wishing to meet the Society's bids, which are discussed below, are relevant also to its project grant bid.
6. The Society's current core grant is for work (mainly providing advice and information) with haemophiliacs infected with HIV through blood or blood products. The 1997/98 bid includes additionally work with those infected with hepatitis C in this way. £100,000 is sought for work with this group, as compared to £40,000 for work with haemophiliacs with HIV. That figure is reasonable given that there are thought to be about 3,000 haemophiliacs still alive who are infected with hepatitis C, as compared to some 600 infected with HIV. Unlike with those with HIV, the Government has refused requests for one off payments or other direct financial help for those infected with hepatitis C. The section 64 grant given to the Haemophilia Society is consistently cited publicly as evidence that the Government are nevertheless doing what they can to help.
7. The Society's total section 64 funding requirement is exceptionally high for 1997/98 because it includes new work with those infected with hepatitis C, in response to needs already identified while the hepatitis project work is still running (for its last year). When pointing out last year that the project grant had to be wound up, we suggested that the Society might include the costs of any ongoing work with that client group in their bids for future core grant funding. PS(H)'s letter to the Society of 1 October, turning down their request for no fault compensation, said that he would look sympathetically at any request for increases in the Society's grant funding to help this group.
8. It would be particularly difficult presentationally to pay less than the Society have applied for this year, when Ministers have made this public commitment. The grant is one of very few examples the Government can point to of help being given to those infected with hepatitis C. It is important that we do not give critics room to argue

that the Government has gone back on its commitment, by failing to grant a reasonable increase this year to meet a need for help for hepatitis C sufferers, which quite clearly already exists. We have already had to dissuade the Society from applying for a further increase for 1997/98, which some of their members had been advocating.

9. We therefore recommend that the Society's core grant bid, as well as its project grant bid, be met in full this year.
10. We would not expect the Society's total bid for section 64 funding to be as high again next year as, although some increase in the core grant may be requested, there would be offsetting savings from the ending of the project grant (£60,000). We have also persuaded the Society to bid for only one year's funding currently, so that they could monitor demand before bidding for future years.
11. As the amount of the core grant exceeds £100,000 approval in principle has been obtained from finance division.