

CONFIDENTIAL

HAEMOPHILIACS INFECTED BY HIV VIRUS

POINTS TO MAKE

1. Colleagues at H(A) have agreed that we should recognise the special circumstances of haemophiliacs infected by the HIV virus as a result of infected blood products.
2. But we must make sure that any help we give is not regarded
 - either as an indication that the Government were in any way at fault;
 - or as a precedent for future claims that the Government should compensate for damage from medical treatment which is not negligence.
3. We propose therefore to make an ex gratia payment of £10 million to the Society. This will establish a fund from which Society can provide help to haemophiliacs and their families in a way that meets their particular needs, without prejudice to the Government's general position on compensation.
4. We have made informal soundings of the Society's Chairman and Secretary who have welcomed
 - both the proposal to set up the fund
 - and our offer to help with the administration of the Fund through experienced retired DHSS staff
5. I expect to have a formal meeting with the Society in the next day or so to agree the proposals.
6. I will then make a Statement to the House early next week. The Society and (I expect) their supporters in the House will then confirm their support for the Government's proposals.