

RESTRICTED-POLICY

Mr Guinness CA-OPU

from: Marguerite Weatherseed
PS/PS(H)

date: 12 January 1996

1. Screen - to note
2. File.

copy: Mr Holden PS/SofS
Mr Taylor PS/M(H)
Ms Woodeson PS/PS(L)
Mr Dyson PS/Perm Sec
Dr Harvey PS/CMO
Mr Hockley SpAdv
Dr Metters DCMO
Ms Edwards CA-OPU
Mr Blake SOLB4
Mr Brownlee F1
Mr Dobson FPA FPS
Dr Rejman CA-OPU
Mr Sharpe HP4
Mr Pudlo CA-OPU

COMPENSATION FOR HAEMOPHILIACS WITH HEPATITIS C

As I mentioned in our telephone conversation earlier today, PS(H) has been giving further thought to the issue of awarding compensation to haemophiliacs who contracted hepatitis C before routine screening of blood products was introduced. He is well aware of our current position on this issue and the reasons for this. However, against a background of mounting political pressure, he would like to explore the options for offering compensation, if only to assure himself that we have done all that is feasible.

I would be grateful if you could prepare a submission for PS(H) setting out costed options for compensation (which could vary, for example, according to factors such as age, the existence of dependents, hardship factors, limited to those who have actually developed HepC). This should include an assessment of how far any of these options are likely to be acceptable to the Haemophilia Society.

This should also provide advice on the likely availability of funds and the implications any change in policy might have in terms of triggering off demands from other areas, both from people (whether haemophiliacs or not) who were infected by blood, rather than blood products, and more generally (for example, if blood or blood products are shown in future to have transmitted some as yet unrecognised infectious agent).

Could I ask for this, please, by **Friday 6 February**.

MM Weatherseed
rm 414 RH
ext GRO-C