



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY

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*From the Minister for Health (Lords)*

Your Ref: DGW/dw

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David G Watters  
General Secretary  
The Haemophilia Society  
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GERIS  
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21 August 1989

*Dear Mr Watters,*

Thank you for your letter of 12 July to Kenneth Clarke about compensation for people with haemophilia and HIV infection. I am sorry that you have not received an earlier reply.

The Secretary of State shares the great sympathy we all feel, and my Ministerial colleagues have often expressed, for all those who have suffered this great misfortune. We demonstrated this sympathy in a tangible way by providing on an entirely ex-gratia basis, the £10 million grant to the Macfarlane Trust which you acknowledge in your letter. We were deeply anxious to do whatever we properly could.

However, it remains our view as we indicated in response to your Society's main campaign, that the question of compensation is a matter for the Courts to decide.

Proceedings are underway on behalf of a number of plaintiffs, and as you know, the Government are co-defendants in the action and are denying liability. You will appreciate that it would be inappropriate for me to comment on issues which are before the Courts.

I hope this is helpful.

*Yours sincerely*

GRO-C

LORD TRAFFORD