

From the Rt Hon Dawn Primarolo MP
Minister of State



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Mr Christopher Fitzgerald
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Dear Mr. Fitzgerald,

Thank you for your letter of 5 July to Alan Johnson about funding for the Macfarlane Trust.

I understand that your predecessor, Mr Peter Stephens, met with the former Minister of State for Public Health, Caroline Flint, in July 2006 to discuss the Trust's business case for increased funding and that the Trust was subsequently provided with an increase of £400,000 for both the Macfarlane and Eileen Trusts. I am advised that the Trust is presently provided with Departmental funding of just over £3.7million per year to meet the needs of its registrants. I am sorry that you consider this level of funding to be insufficient but as I appreciate you are aware, Departmental budgets have to take into account a range of competing pressures.

I will be pleased to consider a revised case from the Trust on behalf of your registrants in due course.

Yours sincerely,

GRO-C

DAWN PRIMAROLO