

**"RE: PQ query"**

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Sent

by: Sandra.Falconer@GRO-C
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12/11/2003 14:36

Reay/POLICY/DOH/GB@GRO-C
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To: David

Bob.Stock@GRO-C
cc: Richard

bcc:

Subject: RE: PQ query

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entity to whom they are addressed.

David

Bob is off sick today but I can advise that basically we looked at the Macfarlane payments and the proposals in the Lord Ross report.

The following line was given to the Minister for his meeting with Philip Dolan on 8 October:

LINES TO TAKE FOR DOLAN MEETING

"explain how you have arrived at a package that is at variance from that recommended by your own Expert Group"

SIZE OF AWARDS of EXPERT GROUP

Expert Group recommended £10k for everyone who contracted the virus, an additional £40k to those who developed 'chronic Hepatitis C', and awards based on common law damages for those progressing to cirrhosis, liver cancer or other similar conditions. Implementing these recommendations was costed at being between £62m and £89m (the £62m figure reflects 16% of those infected progressing to cirrhosis and the £89m figure reflects 60%). These figures are based on an estimated 4000 people being infected.

The figure of £15m quoted by the Executive is based on 580 people coming forward in the first 3 years of the scheme and 20% of those originally infected progressing to cirrhosis. On the basis of the same statistical report that was used to inform the Expert Group figures we would predict that 1165 eligible people are still alive and therefore another 585 persons might claim at some stage in addition to the 580 group. Using the same basis for calculations this would increase the £15m figure to £30m.

Not therefore valid to compare £15m with £89m - more appropriate to compare £30m with £62m.

The underlying principle behind the ex gratia payments announced is that they should go to people who are still alive and suffering. Have to weigh the issue of making a fair and reasonable payment to these people against all the other demands on the health budget. Lord Ross and the Expert Group were asked to ensure that any recommendations be consistent with efficient health service operation and represent a fair deal for all patients - but clearly they did not have access to information on other demands on the health budget to enable them to make that sort of judgement. [NB Dolan was a member of the Expert Group]

I hope this is helpful.

Sandra

-----Original Message-----

From: David.Reay@GRO-C [mailto:David.Reay@GRO-C]
Sent: 12 November 2003 12:34
To: Bob.Stock@GRO-C
Cc: Richard.Gutowski@GRO-C
Subject: PQ query

This email has been received from an external party and
has been swept for the presence of computer viruses.

Hello Bob, because of the Haemophilia Society's renewed campaign, we are now suffering from a deluge of PQs on the hep C scheme. For most we can stonewall with the "details still being worked out" line but one of the questions asks this -

Mr Mike Hancock (Portsmouth South): ... what research his Department (a) has commissioned and (b) is evaluating in order to determine the level of compensation for people infected with hepatitis C due to infected blood products; and if he will make a statement.

We can say that we, if not evaluated, then certainly considered the Lord Ross and Haem Soc Working Group recommendations, but we certainly haven't commissioned anything. Seeing as we basically transposed your proposals, and bearing in mind you've gone public and we need to try and avoid being seen to be led by Scotland, is there anything that we can say was

commissioned when you determined your proposals!! I don't remember you saying that any studies were undertaken, more that you based the proposals on the Lord Ross awards, but just in case...!

Many thanks

David

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