

GRO-C

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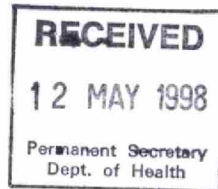
INS e 12 noon

TO: MR C KELLY  
EMAIL

FROM: DR G WINYARD

DATE: 12 MAY 1998

cc: Mr A Griffiths  
Dr J Metters  
Mr D Walden  
Mr D Hewlett  
Dr M McGovern  
Ms C Corrigan  
Mr N Dean



RE: HAEMOPHILIACS AND HEPATITIS C

1. I asked Helen Steele to bring to your attention Chris Corrigan's submission of Friday on Haemophiliacs and Hepatitis C. Because Secretary of State's office were pressing for something for the weekend box, Jeremy Metters and I were unable to intervene at that stage.
2. Secretary of State's wish to pursue the possibility of compensation for Haemophiliacs damaged by Hepatitis C raises some major policy questions both about no fault compensation and the potentially even more elastic concept of "a moral liability" of Government to compensate individuals and groups who have been damaged however inadvertently by its actions. Chris Corrigan of course flags these issues up including the need for Government wide consultation if Secretary of State is to proceed as he apparently wishes. However, it seemed to us that there are very real dangers in moving from specifics to general policy issues as is happening at present, even more so because apparently the Haemophilia Society are aware of Secretary of State's intention to "write to No 10".
3. This seemed a suitable topic for discussion at the Public Health Group Board. Perhaps more importantly Fiona Anderson is arranging an office meeting with Secretary of State to consider this and a long outstanding submission from Mike McGovern on HTLV1, which raises similar issues of compensation albeit in a different context. We need to discuss handling of and attendance at that meeting.

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