

ANNEX B

COMPENSATION FOR HAEMOPHILIACS & HEPATITS C: CHRONOLOGY

Event	Date
Haemophilia Society writes to SofS requesting a meeting to discuss financial recompense for haemophiliacs infected with hepatitis C quoting a pledge by Chris Smith that Labour would undertake a review of the situation.	12 May 1997
Officials brief SofS for the meeting with the Haemophilia Society on 10 September.	8 September 1997
SofS meets the Haemophilia Society. The Society call for a fund similar to the Macfarlane Trust to help haemophiliacs with hepatitis C. SofS says that he had listened sympathetically and will write to the Society shortly. After the meeting SofS asks officials for a submission on the broader considerations surrounding the compensation issue.	10 September 1997
SofS writes to Tony Wilson then Chief Executive of the Haemophilia Society apologising for the delay in responding on issues raised at the meeting	28 November 1997
SofS writes to Haemophilia Society on a number of issues promising a response on a special payments scheme for hepatitis C as soon as possible	26 February 1998
Note from PS/SofS - SofS decides to write to PM on whether or not some form of compensation should be offered to haemophiliacs infected with hepatitis C.	4 March 1998
Officials minute Dr Graham Winyard (DCMO) expressing concern that while SofS accepts that the Government could not afford a large compensation package, he feels that a small hardship fund like the MacFarlane Trust would be possible. Officials are concerned that significant funds would need to be diverted from patient care to fund it and that Treasury remain fundamentally opposed.	5 March 1998
Submission to SofS from officials seeking clarification on a number of issues before drafting a letter from SofS to No 10 proposing a scheme for haemophiliacs with hepatitis C.	8 May 1998
Dr Winyard (DCMO) minutes Chris Kelly (Perm Sec) expressing concern at SofS's wish to pursue the possibility of compensation for haemophiliacs with hepatitis C because of the major policy questions raised 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".	12 May 1998

MS(L) meets officials to discuss ex-gratia payments to haemophiliacs. MS(L) asks officials to draft a note for her to send to SofS, holding the line that "the HIV decision was the aberrant one and that we must resist the pressure for compensation".	18 May 1998
MS(L) minutes SofS arguing against a compensation package for haemophiliacs with hepatitis C on grounds of cost – eg pressure to extend scheme to non haemophiliacs/opening the floodgates to claims from other patient groups – and the dangers of appearing to start to introduce a no fault compensation scheme for the NHS	1 June 1998
SofS and MS(L) meet to discuss the compensation issue. MS(L) said that she felt personal discomfort with having to resist the plea but nevertheless felt it should be resisted.	Not clear. Note of discussion is undated.
SofS writes to Haemophilia Society with decision not to pay compensation for haemophiliacs with hepatitis C and answers written PQ from Vernon Coaker MP.	28 July 1998