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*From the Parliamentary Under  
Secretary of State for Health (Lords)*

26 MAR 1997

*Dear Alistair,*

Thank you for your letter of 8 March to Roger Freeman enclosing one from Andrew Neil, Editor of The Sunday Times about people who have contracted AIDS as a result of receiving blood transfusions.

It is tragic that there are people who have HIV infection as a result of receiving blood transfusions and that some of these have died.

As you know, the ex-gratia payments given to provide help for haemophiliacs with HIV and their families, recognised their wholly exceptional circumstances. Haemophiliacs were already suffering from a disability which affected their employment prospects, insurance and mortgage status. The hereditary nature of haemophilia means that more than one member of the family may be infected with HIV. These special considerations do not apply to those who have become infected with HIV as a result of a blood transfusion and there are no plans to extend such financial arrangements to include those who are in this category.

I am sorry this may be a disappointing reply.

*Yours sincerely,*

GRO-C

BARONESS HOOPER

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