

cc Mr Conavan  
Mr Howell

GRO-C

23/5



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From the Parliamentary Under

Secretary of State for Health

23 May 1991

Dear Alastair,

You may recall our exchange during Questions on 1 May about compensation for those blood transfusion recipients who had become infected with HIV. I enclose a copy of the Official Record of my reply to you, in which I remarked (Official Report Col 751):

"These blood transfusion cases fall into the general medical accident category for which compensation must be sought through the courts."

This does not mean that everyone harmed through an accident would succeed in a claim for compensation through the courts. It would only be where the harm was caused through negligence rather than a genuine accident that a right to compensation arises and can be pursued through the courts.

I am sure that you will have recognised this to be the case but I thought I should write to remove any risk of misunderstanding.

Yours faithfully,

GRO-C

BARONESS HOOPER

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