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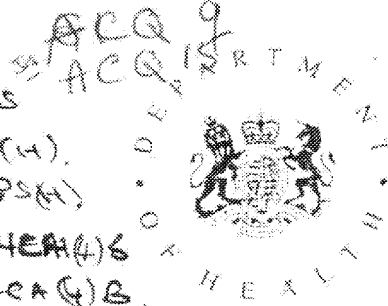
cc: Mr Phillips AS/ES

Mr Sanders PS/MS(H).

Mr Armstrong PS(PSH).

Mr Canavan HEA(4)S

Mr Bunage HEA(4)B.



Mr Gibson
b. 11/1/92

GRO-C

24/2/92

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From the Parliamentary Under

Secretary of State for Health (Lords)

19th February 1992

The Rt Hon The Lord Waddington QC
Lord Privy Seal
68 Whitehall
LONDON SW1A 2AT

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 4 February to William Waldegrave enclosing one from the Viscount Caldecote about HIV infected blood transfusion recipients.

As you know, William Waldegrave announced in a Written Answer on Monday that the special help for haemophiliacs with HIV is being extended to those who acquired the infection through NHS blood transfusion or tissue transfer. Payments will comprise those made to the haemophiliacs in the litigation settlement and the earlier payment of £20,000 made in 1990.

I think you will understand that our position against a general scheme of no fault compensation for medical accidents is unchanged. It has been argued that extending help to the blood and transfusion recipients is not a step in that direction but that it is recognition of very special circumstances. We have considered the situation very carefully with colleagues and we have concluded it is right to extend the special help for haemophiliacs to the blood and tissue recipients with whom they share the tragedy of HIV infection as a result of NHS treatment.

Payments to the infected blood and tissue cases will have to be considered individually. These cases are less straightforward than the haemophiliacs, whose medical history is well known. The circumstances will vary from case to case and evidence will need to be collected and assessed. As I think you already know, Mr Benet Hytner QC has agreed to chair a panel with two medical assessors to take on this work. I think you will appreciate that it may take a little time to make the payments, but we would aim to do this as soon as possible.



The Rt Hon The Lord Waddington QC

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I know that money will not compensate those affected by HIV, but I hope it will provide a degree of financial security.

I enclose a copy of the press release.

Yours

GRO-C

BARONESS HOOPER

GRO-C