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POLICY IN CONFIDENCE

Mr Blake SolB4
Mr Kendall Fal
Dr Rejman HC(M)2
Mr Thompson AIDS Unit
Mr Chinque CH(A)4

From: J Canavan HC(A)4B

Date: 29 January 1992

cc: Mr Wilson HC(A)
Mr Scofield HC(A)4

HIV INFECTED BLOOD TRANSFUSION AND TISSUE RECIPIENTS

1. As most of you know, Ministers are considering, but have not yet decided, whether to give financial help to this group. A brief note on implementation accompanied Mr Kendall's recent submission on the funding options. We are continuing work on the details of implementation in case arrangements have to be made at short notice. I attach for comments a draft paper setting out the kind of scheme we have in mind.

2. Mr Blake has been considering what appeal rights could be exercised by applicants who were dissatisfied with the panel's decision on their claim. It would be helpful if he could suggest a suitable addition to the draft.

3. Mr Thompson may wish to comment on whether there is a general policy line in following up people who may be at risk of AIDS (see para 4).

4. Mr Chinque may have views on the confidentiality issues that will arise from our proposals for identifying potential beneficiaries and for the use of patient records, etc, to help determine entitlement.

5. Dr Rejman recently expressed some thoughts about the (theoretical) number of infected blood and tissue recipients. It would be helpful to have a note on this.

6. Needless to say. you are free to comment on all aspects of the draft.

7. The Secretary of State has agreed to meet Michael McNair-Wilson and Gavin Strang on 4 February to discuss the blood/tissue cases. This may give rise to some further activity on the subject. It would therefore be helpful to have comments on the draft by close Friday (31 January) if possible.

GRO-C

Mr J Canavan
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