



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY
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From the Joint Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

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Robert Brown Esq MP

06 FEBRUARY 1987

Dear Robert,

Thank you for your letter of 27 November to Tony Newton enclosing one from Dr Peter Jones, Director of the Haemophilia Centre at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle upon Tyne. I am so sorry for the delay in replying.

We all feel the greatest sympathy for those haemophiliacs for whom AIDS has caused so much additional anguish. Neither medical science nor technology were initially able to prevent the devastating impact of this new disease. It was not until our knowledge grew that safe blood products could be manufactured and used. In such circumstances compensation can only be awarded by the courts when negligence has been proven.

There has never been a general State scheme to compensate those who suffer the unavoidable adverse effects which may unhappily arise from some medical procedures. However all of the facilities of the NHS, and a range of social security benefits are available to those who suffer illness, unemployment or loss of earnings as a result of infection with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus, or as a result of contracting AIDS itself.

In the absence of a cure, the Government has taken all possible steps to provide safer blood products for haemophiliacs. To counsel those infected, we have provided £360,000 to the six Haemophilia Reference Centres in England and Wales to enable them to provide special counselling facilities.

Dr Jones has also written to Neville Trotter enclosing the same letter to The Times, and I have written to him in similar terms.

Yours ever

GRO-C

THE BARONESS TRUMPINGTON

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