

Handed to PR-OFF by Mike Hem 20/1/04.
MICHAEL CONNARTY M.P.



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Labour Member of Parliament For Falkirk East

6 January 2004

Rt Hon John Dr John Reid MP
Secretary of State for Health
Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London SW1A 2NS

Sors met Michael
C et al on 12/Jan
→ Richard, Gutowski / Danic
Herper / David Reay - for
information + response to
takes alc of the mtg +
announcement.

Dear John,

Ex Gratia Payments Scheme for those infected with Hepatitis C by infected blood products

We were disappointed that Michael Connarty, Chairman of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Haemophilia received a reply dated 18 December 2003 from Under-Secretary of State Melanie Johnson in relation to the Hepatitis C ex gratia-payment scheme. We the undersigned as members of the All Party Group who represent people who will be affected or penalised by the scheme still wish to have a meeting with you as the Secretary of State. We think we can be of some assistance to the government if some small amendments are made:-

1. The assistance required by those who have had their family life opportunities curtailed by having to share their life with and suffer with a family member who has eventually died from Hepatitis C should be included in an ex gratia assistance scheme. It would never make up for the loss of a family member but might assist in creating a more stable life structure. X
2. Those who have been infected with HIV and also Hepatitis C should not be excluded from the ex gratia payments as they have to live with a double burden and may now face more serious debilitation from the effect of Hepatitis C. ✓
3. Those who have often suffered with Hepatitis C for up to twenty years may clear the virus after extensive and difficult treatment. They require assistance to cope with the damage the virus will have done to their health and life opportunities and should be included in the scheme. ✓
4. We are concerned at the reports that the trigger for higher level payments will be solely based on those infected with Hepatitis C developing cirrhosis of the liver. Haemophilia consultants will verify that Hepatitis C causes a multiplicity of other health problems such as liver disease and liver damage which are equal in their impact as cirrhosis in their impact on the patient's health. We would suggest that the entry trigger to higher level payments should be clinically based but on a wider range of clinical conditions. 28th Mtg for 25,000

I look forward to our meeting at an early date.

Yours sincerely,

GRO-C

Michael Connarty MP
Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Haemophilia

Lord Morris of Manchester
Honorary President, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Haemophilia

Robert Syms MP
Vice Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Haemophilia

GRO-C

Paddy Tipping MP
Secretary, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Haemophilia

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Sylvia Heal MP

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Valerie Davey MP

GRO-C

Bill Tynan MP

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Eddie O'Hara MP