

INB 11  
ACQ 9  
GEB 5

GRO-C

1. Mr Dobson 8.00

2. Parly

From: D E Burrage  
EHF1A  
506 Eileen House  
Ext GRO-C

Date: 8 July 1991

HIV HAEMOPHILIA - IRISH SETTLEMENT

I attach briefing for No 10 on the report of a settlement in Ireland, reported in today's Times.

GRO-C

D E BURRAGE

UK provision compares unfavourably?

International comparisons are difficult to make as standards of health care and social benefit provisions are different.

The settlement offer for HIV infected haemophiliacs in this country was proposed by the haemophiliacs lawyers, and is acceptable to the vast majority.

The special provision which the Government has made for infected haemophiliacs in this country is still among the best of government schemes.

## BACKGROUND NOTE

### HIV HAEMOPHILIA - IRISH SETTLEMENT

1. The Irish Health Ministry are meeting today to see if the Irish Haemophilia Society will accept an offer for HIV infected haemophiliacs ranging from 70,000 Irish Punts for single people to 100,000 Irish Punts for married people with children, in settlement of litigation. The total cost of the offer would be 8 million Irish Punts, the first 2 million available now, the remaining 8 million available in January 1992. It remains to be seen what the final detail of the settlement will be following today's meeting.

2. A settlement offer similar to the offer made in UK (£21,500 to £60,500 depending on circumstances) has already been rejected.

3. Hitherto, the Irish have only made one payment for HIV infected haemophiliacs, equivalent to the first Macfarlane Trust set up in UK to meet cases of special need. No payment has been made in Ireland equivalent to the £24 million made available to provide £20,000 for each infected haemophiliac in UK in February 1990.

4. The Irish settlement offer cannot therefore be compared directly with the recent UK settlement. Taking account of the exchange rate, the comparison would be:-

UK settlement + payment last year	£41,500 - £80,500
--------------------------------------	-------------------

Irish settlement	£63,000 - £90,000
------------------	-------------------

In addition both Governments have made available a trust fund for special cases. UK payments do not affect entitlement to social security benefits. Not clear at this stage whether the Irish settlement will affect entitlements.

5. However, international comparisons are difficult to make, as standards of health care and social benefit provisions are different. The UK settlement, proposed by the plaintiffs' lawyers and acceptable to the vast majority of the plaintiffs is still among the best of the government schemes for infected haemophiliacs, (eg Sweden - around £45,000 in total for an individual aged 30, and Canada - £60,000 in annual instalments over four years.)