

THE ROYAL INFIRMARY OF EDINBURGH

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Mr. Kenneth Clarke,  
Secretary of State for Health,  
Department of Health,  
Alexander Fleming House,  
London.  
SE1

CAL/AT  
29 November 1989

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Dear Mr. Clarke,

Compensation for HIV Infected Haemophiliacs

I know that you are aware of the great tragedy that has befallen 1200 haemophiliacs in the United Kingdom who have become infected by HIV. The government's action to establish the MacFarlane Trust was most welcome and the money has already helped many infected individuals.

I note from the media that a payment of £20,000 is to be made to each HIV infected haemophiliac. Whilst this is clearly of some benefit to them it is a long way short of what might be considered a reasonable settlement as compensation.

The campaign to obtain no fault compensation for these unfortunate individuals will continue. It is clear that it has received a great deal of support in the country and in particular amongst many Members of Parliament. It would greatly enhance the standing of the government if it could be seen to be caring for the patients.

I have been approached by your Department to ask if I would be prepared to act as an Expert Witness in the forthcoming litigation. I am therefore very familiar with much of the background to the HIV problem and know that such litigation will be potentially very damaging.

I very strongly urge you to have discussions with the Haemophilia Society and The MacFarlane Trust to try and devise a system of reasonable compensation, after all many european countries have already gone along this path.

Yours sincerely,

C.A. Ludlam,  
Director Haemophilia Centre.