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*From the Joint Parliamentary Under Secretary of State*

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*Dear Dr. Forbes,*

Thank you for your letter of 16 December to the Prime Minister expressing the concern you and your fellow Directors feel for the haemophiliacs in your care. I have been asked to reply on her behalf.

We all feel the greatest sympathy for haemophiliacs who have suffered this grave misfortune and indeed for all those people who have become HIV-anti-body positive since the emergence of this new disease.

As you may be aware however, there is no State scheme to compensate those who, like haemophiliacs infected with the AIDS virus, unfortunately suffer adverse effects from their medical treatment. Compensation may be awarded by the Courts in cases where negligence has been proved.

We do recognise that HIV has put the greatest pressures upon patients and staff alike at haemophilia centres. For this reason we will again be funding centres from a central allocation to support the vital counselling services you provide. Officials will be writing to you all shortly on this matter.

Meanwhile, the full range of social security benefits are of course available to those who are infected, and I hope your patients will fully avail themselves of such assistance.

Your fellow Director at the Newcastle Haemophilia Centre had also written to the Prime Minister and I am replying to him separately in similar terms.

*Yours sincerely*

GRO-C

THE BARONESS TRUMPINGTON