

Mr Macniven

GRO-C

M. MacDonald
I see a good case for us to take this on. But what do you think, PL?

Tim 8.10

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GRO-C

7 Oct 87

Copy (without attachments) to: Miss Cox (on return)
Mr Morison
Mr Scott

COMPENSATION FOR HAEMOPHILIACS INFECTED WITH HIV

1. Mr Wilson of my Branch consulted you on 30 September about the letter of 16 September to Mr Forsyth from Dr Lowe, Director of the West of Scotland Haemophilia Centre, on this matter. I now attach a copy of the PS minute and suggested reply which I have put forward.

2. As the PS minute explains, there was a round of correspondence on this matter earlier this year. At the time, Mr Murray of your Division and I discussed the question of who should take the lead, and we concluded that, since the first Green Folder had been referred to me, I should do so, but taking account of his views since it seemed that, in so far as there is expertise on blood products and haemophilia on the administrative side of the Department, it reposed in his Branch. Mr Morison has, as you know, recently been making inquiries about this matter which he has addressed to your Division.

3. In preparing the PS minute and suggested reply on the current Green Folder, I consulted the AIDS Unit in DHSS, and discovered that the lead on this matter is in fact being taken by the Blood Products Division of that Department headed by a Mr Malcolm Harris. Mr Moore of his Division told me that he had arranged for Mr Angus in your Division to be sent a copy of the model reply which is to be used by DHSS in response to the stream of letters which can be expected once the Haemophilia Society's campaign for compensation is fully under way next week. I have in fact drawn on the material in this model in preparing the suggested reply to Dr Lowe.

4. I apologise for setting out the background at such length, but I think that you will wish to be aware that in DHSS (and I suspect in the Welsh and Northern Ireland Offices) the lead is being taken on this issue by those who have policy responsibility for blood products. It goes almost without saying that, given all the other pressures we are under here, it would cause me no difficulty to relinquish the lead in SHHD!

GRO-C

C M A LUGTON
7 October 1987

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