

AIDS



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Alexander Fleming House, Elephant &amp; Castle, London SE1 6BY

Telephone 01-407 5522 ext. **GRO-C***From the Chief Medical Officer*

Professor A L Bloom  
 University of Wales College of Medicine  
 Department of Haematology  
 University Hospital  
 Heath Park  
 Cardiff CF4 4XN

June 1987

*Dear Professor Bloom*

Thank you for your letter of the 18 May on the subject of possible compensation for haemophiliacs who are HIV positive as a result of treatment.

The question of compensation raises many difficult issues and the Social Services Committee in their Third Report for 1986-87 mention that the Minister of Health Mr Newton had been questioned on this subject. His reply was.

"Compensation may be awarded by the courts in cases where negligence has been proved", but that no State Scheme exists.

You would be aware that the Department has faced the question of compensation for many years especially in the field of immunisation policy and that the European Community are interested in this subject and are considering a possible scheme.

The subject of compensation is clearly outside the remit of EAGA and in my position as CMO I find that it would be inappropriate to select out a particular group of patients for particular support. I trust that your fellow Haemophiliac Reference Centre Directors will understand this.

*Yours sincerely*

**GRO-C**

*cc Dr Smith  
 Dr Harris  
 Mr. Doherty*