

1. Mr ~~Cashman~~ ^{Mc} 28/7
2. Ms Goldhill

From: R J Moore
Date: 28 July 1988

c.c. Mr Heppell
Mr Harris
Dr Pickles

Financial help for Blood Transfusion and Organ/Tissue recipients with AIDS

1. I attach a draft letter for Secretary of State to send to Robin Cook regarding the above.
2. Robin Cook met with John Moore on a number of occasions when help for this group of people was discussed. As a consequence officials devised a workable scheme but were unable to avoid the logical inconsistencies inherent in helping this group whilst not extending it to other categories of HIV patients. It could be seen as a move towards a scheme of help for all those infected with any disease as a result of NHS treatment and a step down the slippery slope to a full flooded no-fault compensation scheme.
3. A scheme devised to give special financial help totalling £10m to haemophiliacs who contacted HIV from infected blood products was announced last November. The Macfarlane Trust - an independent charity - was set up to distribute the money. At that time, Ministers were able to convince both Treasury and H(A) that this group was a unique case and could be ringfenced to prevent their use as a precedent. Officials have taken the view that a similar position would be very difficult to adopt if an extension of help to transfusion recipients was contemplated.
4. There is no doubt that there are a few distressing cases of transfusion recipients with HIV infection in bleak circumstances who deserve sympathy and their cause has been championed by Robin Cook. Nevertheless it does not appear practicable to provide special financial help beyond that already provided by the Social Security system and the draft letter explains this view.

GRO-C

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