



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

F: Blood To see
Mr Phillips
Mr Armstrong
Miss Burnett
Ms Wright
Mr Heppell
Miss Pease
Mr Canavan

THE PRIME MINISTER

2 December 1991

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter of 22 November about the tragic circumstances of those individuals who have been infected with the HIV virus as a result of blood transfusions, but who are not haemophiliacs.

We made clear when we made the settlement in the case of haemophiliacs that they were a very special case. The Government has acted accordingly. I have every sympathy with the plight of those non-haemophiliacs who have been infected with HIV as a result of blood transfusions. But, as you know, the House has very recently decided, on a free vote, that it did not support the principle of no fault compensation for medical accidents.

Every case of a patient damaged by medical treatment represents a human tragedy, but the cogent arguments which led the House to reject the principle of no fault compensation apply, I believe, also in this case.

If the NHS are proved to have been negligent in a court, then of course it must accept its liability to pay damages.

I am sorry to have to send you what I know will be a disappointing response. If you and your colleagues wish to

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discuss the matter further, perhaps you could let Graham Bright know and he will try to find a suitable time.

Yours Ever,

GRO-C

John L Marshall Esq MP .