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2 DEC 1991

T S HEPPELL

POLICY - IN CONFIDENCE

MR PHILLIPS

From: Permanent Secretary
Date: 2nd December 1991

Copy: Mr Sands
Mr Armstrong
Ms Burnett
CMO
Mr Nichol
Mr Heppell ✓
Ms Campey

*agreed. To F. & A.
to France*

GRO-C

2/12

BLOOD TRANSFUSION ETC. PATIENTS WITH HIV

I have seen Mr Heppell's minute of 29 November. I very much share his misgivings on the policy case for a concession here (and the finance would not be easy either).

2 It is never very comfortable to resist claims for compensation from those who have encountered major problems through no fault of their own or anyone else. But unless Government is prepared to draw a line and stick to it, it will end up with a de facto (very expensive) no-fault compensation system.

3 The ringfence around the haemophiliacs is bound to be attacked, but we are unlikely ever to find a better one if we abandon it. The haemophiliacs were doubly disadvantaged by their existing, hereditary disease which already affected their position on employment, insurance and the like. They can be separated from other victims of medical accidents, but the next defensible boundary is not easy to see. I advise long reflection before we move further in to no-fault compensation for medical accidents. Is this really the most pressing marginal case for the deployment of money from the health programme?

GRO-C

C W FRANCE

Copy to Mr Henderson

GRO-C

4/12

123/8