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From the Secretary of

State for Health

18 FEB 1991

Mr D G Watters
General Secretary
The Haemophilia Society
123 Westminster Bridge Road
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M. Caravan

I do believe.

Thank you for your letter of 22 January and for your kind message of thanks concerning the out of court settlement for people with haemophilia who have contracted the AIDS virus through contaminated blood products. I hope that you will accept this as a reply to your letters to Virginia Bottomley and to Stephen Dorrell.

I believe that the proposals put to us by the plaintiff's solicitors and which have been agreed in principle provide a fair and reasonable resolution of the litigation.

I welcome the indication which you have given that these proposals will be accepted by the vast majority of members of the Haemophilia Society.

I realise that no amount of money can ever fully compensate for the tragedy that has befallen those haemophiliacs with HIV, and that, as in any compromise, the amounts made available may fall short of what may have been hoped for. However, in total, the Government has made available £76 million and ensured that entitlement to social security benefits will not be affected by these payments. We therefore believe we have made very considerable financial provision for the affected haemophiliacs and their families.

I understand that the Macfarlane Trust has adequate resources at present for its work of helping to meet special needs. We will however continue to keep under review the amounts available to the Trust.



It would be useful if we could meet, when the settlement is complete, to discuss the Society's views and concerns about matters relating to the care and treatment of people with haemophilia. I have asked my Diary Secretary to contact you about this.

GRO-C

WILLIAM WALDEGRAVE