

*M. Ellis*

*for haemophilia file (1/35).*

*6-139*

*for 1/35.*

GRO-C 20/9

Mr Davey PS/MS(H)

From: Strachan Heppell PG  
Date: 14 September 1989

cc: Mr Barton AIDS Unit  
Mr Canavan HSLA

**MACFARLANE TRUST**

Minister will wish to know the outcome of my recent meeting with the Chairman and representative of the Macfarlane Trust.

2. The Trust gave an account of their spending which totalled £1 million in 1988/89 and is expected to be just over £1 3/4 million for the current financial year. I gave them the assurance they were seeking that Ministers supported the Trust in its work and were generally content with the progress that had been made so far.

3. As expected, though, the main question they wished to discuss was whether there would be any more Government money for the Trust. Payments are already eating into the capital and the Trustees estimate that the original £10 million grant will run out in 7 or 8 years time. They foresee a continuing need, particularly in supporting dependants and helping with housing costs and are concerned that they should be able to make commitments with a clearer view of the future of the Trust.

4. The advice I gave them was that the right time to approach Ministers about additional funding would be when the Trust funds were sufficient to meet commitments for only another 2 or 3 years. An approach now would be too early for the issue to be properly addressed. I went on to emphasise, though, that we would not wish the Trustees to make more frugal offers of help than they would otherwise consider reasonable simply to conserve funds.

5. The Trustees are anxious to have a more formal response which they could use publicly. Some haemophiliacs who do not need help at present, ask if the Trust will still be around in a few years time.

6. I could see the force of this argument. I therefore said that I would consider whether officials could helpfully exchange letters with the Trust which responded to Trustees' concern. Having reflected on this, I think this is the right course and I propose if Minister is content to write on the lines of the attached draft. The contents would be shown to the Trust before the formal exchange so they would know what to expect. They would show us a copy of their reply in the same way.

7. The draft letter reflects what Mr Newton said when making the announcement about the Trust to the House - a copy is attached.

GRO-C

STRACHAN HEPPELL