



10 DOWNING STREET
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THE PRIME MINISTER

29 October 1996

Dear Alf,

Thank you for your letter of 7 October asking me to meet a deputation to discuss the Haemophilia Society's claim for financial assistance for those infected with hepatitis C through NHS treatment.

Health Ministers have, as you say, already had a number of meetings with, and representations from, the Society and supporters of its campaign, and the issue has been the subject of a number of questions and debates in the House. I know that careful consideration has been given to the case which the Society has put forward. John Horam's letter to the Society of 1 October set out clearly and in some detail the Government's reasons for not accepting that case, despite our sympathy for those infected with hepatitis C in this way. It also emphasised the fact that we see a clear distinction between the plight of those who contracted HIV as a result of NHS treatment and those infected with hepatitis C. There is nothing which I can helpfully add to the points made in that letter.

In the circumstances, therefore, it would not be appropriate for me to meet the deputation.

Yours Ever,

GRO-C

The Right Honourable Alfred Morris, A.O., Q.S.O., M.P.