

Nick Fish

From: Simpson, Karen [Karen.Simpson@GRO-C]
Sent: 19 July 2011 16:22
To: 'Stephanie.Barnhouse@GRO-C'; 'nick@GRO-C'
Cc: 'Will.Scott@GRO-C'; 'Wight Ailsa@GRO-C'; 'linda@GRO-C'; 'Martin@GRO-C'; 'Peter@GRO-C'; 'Kent Graham@GRO-C'; 'Stones-Roe Jonathan@GRO-C'; 'Cole Ben@GRO-C'; 'GSI; Jecock Rowena@GRO-C'; 'David.Worthington@GRO-C'; 'Lisa.Amos@GRO-C'; 'Jo.Salway@GRO-C'; 'Steve.Elliott@GRO-C'; 'McGinnity, John; Skillen, Paul; Mitchell, Elizabeth (Dr); Camplisson, Seamus; Stewart, Lynsey'
Subject: Re: Payments to DAs - URGENT

Dear Nick

I can confirm Northern Ireland, similar to Scotland and Wales is also content to underwrite any payments made by the Skipton Fund to recipients in Northern Ireland, until the revised Agency Agreement is put in place.

Many thanks,

Karen Simpson
Health Protection Branch

This message was sent from my Blackberry device.

----- Original Message -----

From: Barnhouse, Stephanie (HSSDG - DPHHP - HPD) [GRO-C]
To: Nick Fish [GRO-C]
Cc: Will.Scott@GRO-C; <Will.Scott@GRO-C>; Simpson, Karen; Wight Ailsa@GRO-C; Linda Haigh <linda@GRO-C>; Martin Harvey <Martin@GRO-C>; Peter Stevens <Peter@GRO-C>; Kent Graham <Kent.Graham@GRO-C>; Jonathan.Stones-Roe@GRO-C; Cole Ben@GRO-C; Jecock Rowena@GRO-C; Worthington, David <David.Worthington@GRO-C>; Amos, Lisa <Lisa.Amos@GRO-C>; Salway, Jo <Jo.Salway@GRO-C>; Elliott, Steve <Steve.Elliott@GRO-C>
Sent: Tue Jul 19 16:09:54 2011
Subject: FW: Payments to DAs - URGENT

Dear Nick

We are very concerned that the regular payments made to those in Wales may be stopped and do not wish this to happen. I can therefore confirm that the Welsh Government will underwrite any payments made by the Skipton Fund to Welsh recipients until the revised Agency Agreement has been put in place and any consequential amendments made. We would therefore like to confirm that we would like the Skipton Fund to continue to make regular payment to recipients in Wales.

Many thanks
Stephanie

-----Original Message-----

From: Nick Fish [mailto:nick@GRO-C]
Sent: 19 July 2011 13:40
To: Barnhouse, Stephanie [GRO-C]; Will.Scott@GRO-C; Karen.Simpson@GRO-C
Cc: Ailsa.Wight@GRO-C; 'Linda Haigh'; Martin Harvey; 'Peter Stevens'; Graham.Kent@GRO-C; Jonathan.Stones-Roe@GRO-C; Ben.Cole@GRO-C; Rowena.Jecock@GRO-C
Subject: RE: Payments to DAs - URGENT
Importance: High

Dear Stephanie, Will and Karen

I would be grateful if you would please consider the below email exchange between myself and colleagues in the Department of Health along with the attached email and excel spreadsheet which puts costings on the continuation of the regular payments only.

If there is anything at all that can be done to allow these payments to continue prior to the formal agreement and signing off of the amended agency agreement then that would be much appreciated.

If anybody has any questions with any of the emails that have been forward or with the statistics then please don't hesitate to contact me.

I look forward to hearing from you shortly.

Nick Fish

Scheme Administrator

Direct Line: GRO-C

Email: nick@ GRO-C

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-----Original Message-----

From: Rowena.Jecock@ GRO-C [mailto:Rowena.Jecock@ GRO-C]
Sent: 19 July 2011 13:14
To: Nick Fish
Cc: Ailsa.Wight@ GRO-C; 'Linda Haigh'; Martin Harvey; 'Peter Stevens';
Graham.Kent@ GRO-C; Jonathan.Stopes-Roe@ GRO-C
Ben.Cole@dh GRO-C
Subject: Re: Payments to DAs
Importance: High

Dear Nick,
Thank you for your e-mail below.

I fully understand the handling problems, and the implications for patients, that would be involved in not continuing to make those annual payments to recipients in the Devolved Administrations, which the Skipton Fund had already initiated without formalisation of the necessary UK-wide agreement.

However, I must re-iterate that no payments to recipients in the Devolved Administrations (other than those covered by the existing Agency Agreement) can be made until the new Agency Agreement is in place. Simply because there was an error in letting the Skipton Fund operate for 2.5 years without a similar agreement does not provide justification for repeating the same error now. As you know, we are working to get the new Agency Agreement in place as quickly as possible.

I regret that the Department of Health cannot enter into an interim arrangement regarding payments in the Devolved Administrations, since this is a matter for the Devolved Administrations to decide. Can I therefore suggest that you write instead to the Health Departments in the Devolved Administrations seeking their urgent agreement to underwrite making these payments in the interim; and commitment to reimburse you for such payments as you have already made without authorisation.

Their e-mail contact details are as follows:

Stephanie.Barnhouse@ GRO-C

Will.Scott@ GRO-C

Karen.Simpson@ GRO-C

Kind regards,

Rowena

"Nick Fish"

GRO-C

18/07/2011 18:14

To
Ailsa Wight, Rowena
Jecock
cc
"Peter Stevens"
<Peter@GRO-C>, "Martin Harvey"
<Martin@GRO-C>, "Linda
Haigh" <linda@GRO-C>
Subject
Payments to DAs

Dear Ailsa and Rowena

Thank you for your letter to Peter regarding regular payments and additional lump sum payments of £25,000 to individuals in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Since speaking to Rowena we have ceased all additional lump sum payments and payments to the estates of people who died before 29 August 2003.

The purpose of this email is to clarify the situation regarding the new regular payments since the July payments are due to be processed in the next couple of days. We can of course put regular payments to people in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland on hold but if at all possible I feel this is something that should be avoided.

These are all individuals with varying degrees of advanced liver disease and sadly we are receiving reported deaths at a rate of roughly one person a fortnight (across the whole of the UK). I fear that the public perception of stopping regular payments to those in the DAs would be very bad indeed.

There is a real danger that many of them would now be relying on these payments and may incur costs if the funds were to suddenly cease.

I appreciate now that we had not received the go ahead to begin making these payments but we are three months down the line since they began in England and the pressure from applicants and campaigners in the DAs would be very much greater had we not been making them there as well. The first Agency Agreement between the DH and the Skipton Fund was signed on 22 May 2007, some 2 ½ years after we had become operational, so if there is any way at all of allowing just the regular payments to continue, perhaps by using some form of interim document, then that would be extremely beneficial.

I will ask Linda to extrapolate the number of regular payments we are making to the DAs so that we can put a costing on this.

If this is something we are unable to do then I will draft a letter to go out to all those currently receiving regular payments in the DAs explaining that their payments are on hold pending the resolution of this matter and that they will recommence as soon as possible; I would of course run the draft by yourselves and the SF Board before sending anything.

I look forward to hearing from you shortly.

Kind regards

Nick Fish

Scheme Administrator

Direct Line: **GRO-C**

Email: nick@

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