



THE MACFARLANE TRUST
Alliance House 12 Caxton Street London SW1H 0QS

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Clair Walton

13 March 2006

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Dear Clair

I understand from Martin Harvey that you have asked that the Trustees review the decision he recently communicated to you that we would cease paying the additional £745 monthly that you have been receiving since 2003. It is rare for me, as Chairman, to write outside the normal protocols when considering requests for assistance, but the circumstances of your particular request and the level of support we have given you over the years persuade me to do so on this occasion.

Your reaction disappoints but does not, I confess, greatly surprise me. Your request will be acted upon and the Trustees will consider your circumstances at our next meeting in early May. The Trustees will have all the information necessary but you should not at this stage rely upon either a positive or negative outcome.

Over the years the Trustees have leant over backwards to assist you. In recent years, with that additional payment that was designed to assist with the expenses of your course, you have been receiving more, *by some multiples*, than any other beneficiary of the Trust.

It is not your fault that you were unable to complete the course, nor that the Trustees, wishing to help you attain a measure of economic independence, continued the additional payments, even though we knew that you were not attending the course, so that you became used to receiving them. Nor do I in any way imply that you do not deserve the Trust's support. But I must point out that the majority of those whom we help have haemophilia – you do not – and are infected with hepatitis C – you are not – so they might be said to deserve at least equal treatment. That is, of course, something that we are unable to give.

You know that the Trust has never been funded sufficiently to enable us to put everybody in the state that they would like; all we can do is to give a measure of assistance, which we know is generally inadequate. Your frequent criticism of the Trust appears to ignore this and to assume that we have unlimited resources that we can apply to each and every case – or, at least, to your own.

You are probably aware that we prepared a business case, which was submitted to the Department of Health last November, justifying and requesting a considerably enhanced level of funding that would enable the Trustees to respond more helpfully to people's needs. Even in the event of our request being met in full I would not be surprised to receive requests for help in the future that we are unable to meet completely.

Registered Charity Number 296863

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You are, of course, entitled to ask us for help. You are not entitled to receive it, any more than anybody else is. What anybody receives is the result of the exercise of the Trustees' discretion, which must take into account the limited resources we have available and the needs of the entire community that we are here to help. I do suggest that you might give some consideration to the fact you are but one of some hundreds of people who look to us for assistance, many of whom are less articulate than you, do not have the benefit of owning any property, as you do, have dependent families, which you do not, and whose health is much more compromised than your own.

We will be in touch again after the Trustees have undertaken the review you request.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

GRO-C

Peter Stevens
Chairman