

DESPERATE FAMILIES WAIT FOR CASH

By JENNY HOPE
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THE Government was accused yesterday of dragging its heels over compensation to 1,200 haemophilic Aids victims.

They were promised an initial payout last month but so far have received nothing.

The patients became infected with the Aids virus through Health Service blood transfusions. At least four have died since the £42million settlement was announced in December.

Many more are in urgent need of money to pay off debts or to buy houses or for home extensions to make life easier.

Solicitor Dennis Collins, of the steering group acting for hundreds of victims, blamed civil servants and Government lawyers for the delay.

In a letter to haemophiliacs explaining the delays, he says: 'We have been prepared to meet the Government's lawyers at any time, night or day, to bring about a speedy conclusion. The Government does not appear to share the same urgency.'

The Government agreed to pay the £42million after the Daily Mail highlighted the plight of the infected haemophiliacs.

The settlement was intended to spare them taking legal action over claims for compensation. Payments ranging from £26,500 for an infected

Anger over Aids payout delays for NHS victims

HUNDREDS of women patients of a gynaecologist carrying the Aids virus are expected to flood health chiefs with calls for advice today.

The doctor operated on at least 1,200 people, including many women in childbirth, it was revealed yesterday. The Department of Health will provide free HIV tests for the women and their

babies, although officials stressed that the chance of passing on the virus was remote.

The gynaecologist, a middle-aged bachelor, is believed to have stopped practising. He worked in three areas, Trafford in Greater Manchester, Bury St Edmunds in Suffolk and a third which has not been identified.

child to £60,500 for a married man with children were agreed.

One victim, GRO-A who was infected in 1985, needs the money for a ground-floor extension at his home in GRO-A West Yorkshire, so he can be near his wife and two

children when confined to bed. 'We're at our wits' end,' he said.

The payments were to have been completed this month, but the situation has been complicated by what solicitors for the haemophiliacs claim are unfair restrictions imposed on

the evidence they will be allowed to give in future litigation.

The Health Department said that it had not reneged. It hoped the legal work would be completed in May and that payment would be made as soon as possible after that.

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