



The Haemophilia Society

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Our Ref: DGW/pb

1 June 1990

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP
Prime Minister
No 10, Downing Street
LONDON
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Dear Mrs Thatcher

I am writing to you with regard to the enquiry which has recently been proposed into the question of compensation for people with haemophilia and HIV by the former Parliamentary Ombudsman, Sir Anthony Barroclough, for further consideration by your office.

You may recall that in his letter to you of 23 October 1989, my Chairman suggested that it might be necessary for the Government to set up a high-level committee to consider the options for full compensation for those of our members infected with HIV after NHS treatment. We believe that an enquiry along the lines proposed could offer a means of finally resolving this long-standing issue before the situation deteriorates from tragedy into acrimony.

We are very conscious that the Government has done much to assist our members, and for our part we have always sought a reasoned dialogue with Government on a non-party basis. It is therefore most unfortunate that the legal action brought by our members has now been delayed until March 1991 at the earliest, with a final decision many years away. Regardless of the outcome, many of those bringing the action are certain to have died by that time.

This will make it very difficult for us to continue a reasoned dialogue with Government behalf of our remaining members. Those who have developed AIDS, mindful as they are of the help Government has given, will look for a renewed initiative before they succumb to this withering disease. The Thalidomide case may not be an exact parallel, but an enquiry which could similarly resolve this issue within a short period would be most welcome.

GRO-C

David G Watters
General Secretary

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