



GEBIS & LIEK

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From the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

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The Rt Hon John Patten MP

Dear John.

05 JUL 1994

Thank you for your letter of 23 June enclosing one from your ^{constituent} Mr GRO-A c/o Bird Franklin, Chester House, George Street, Oxford about the level of payments to people with haemophilia and HIV and other matters.

I sympathise with those who have become HIV positive through blood or blood products and I was sorry to learn that Nicholas Medley died recently.

The Government has recognised the very special circumstances of those with haemophilia and HIV and has acted accordingly. In total, it has made available £81 million to the Macfarlane Trust for payments to HIV infected haemophiliacs and their families. In 1988, £10 million was made available to the Macfarlane Trust for the special needs of HIV infected haemophiliacs and their families, topped up with an extra £5 million in 1993. £24 million was made available in 1990 for payments of £20,000 to each HIV infected haemophiliac and a further £42 million in 1991 for payments at differential rates between £21,500 and £60,500 depending on circumstances.

The medical treatment which was given prior to the introduction of the screening of donations and heat treatment of blood products in 1985 was the best available, in the light of medical knowledge, at the time. In the Government's view, those who became infected through blood products did so through no one's fault.

We have great concern for the tragic plight of haemophiliacs. We realise that no amount of money can ever compensate fully for the tragedy that has befallen people like Mr Medley but we hope that the special provision which the Government made has helped to provide a degree of financial security for those affected and their dependants.



Mr **GRO-A** has also raised the issues of taxes payable on the estates of deceased haemophiliacs and compensation payments to ex-service women. These matters are the responsibility of other Government Departments and I am, therefore, copying this correspondence to the Board of Inland Revenue and the Ministry of Defence asking that they reply to you direct.

I hope this is helpful.

GRO-C

VIRGINIA BOTTOMLEY