



Sammy Sinclair

25/06/2003 12:39

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cc: David McNeil/PR-OFF/DOH/GB@GRO C Graham
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Keuneman/PR-OFF/DOH/GB@GRO C Suzanne
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Subject: Strictly personal: Hep C Compensation



RESTRICTED - Personal

Dear All,

SofS has just met with Andrew Smith, Paul Boateng and Alistair Darling to discuss Hep C compensation.

It was agreed that:

- (i) SofS plans to meet with Malcolm Chisholm before summer Recess to discuss a range of issues. He will use this to raise Hep C. Malcolm Chisholm has already said he is planning to come down to London in the next couple of weeks and would like a meeting. **Jessie** - please can you get on with fixing this up (NB: you **must not** mention Hep C. You must just say it's an introductory chat to discuss a range of issues);
- (ii) In terms of how SofS raises it with Malcolm Chisholm, the plan will be to let him know the legal advice has been received, that they have ruled it is a devolved matter, and to agree a process for how we handle this - ideally getting agreement that officials in the various Departments work together over the summer to develop a realistic (in cost-terms and possible phasing terms to help manage the costs further) with a view to a UK-wide announcement being made in September;
- (iii) SofS will also need to speak to Paul Murphy and Peter Hain over the next week or so to brief them on the issues, given that Wales and Northern Ireland will also need to be brought on board. **Jessie** - please can you fix up, checking timing with SofS - eg he may wish to do these before Chisholm meeting. **Richard G** - on Wales, please can you confirm for SofS that any Welsh scheme would be a matter for Wales, and that he would not have to rule on what Wales do.
- (iv) on financing an English scheme, the Chief Secretary was very non-committal. Andrew Smith, an ex-CST, suggested there may be some indirect ways of helping - ie giving us some more money baged for something separate. as I understand it, there are issues about if HMT give us money for a Hep C scheme, there are then consequentials for money also haveing to be found for Scotland which lets them off the hook and removes the disincentive for them devising yet more schemes. **Richard/Martin** - please can you continue to push on this.
- (v) it was agreed that we would work up a line to take between SofS, CST, Alistair Darling and Andrew Smith in case we get asked over the next week or two what's happening on Hep

C, and a line for after the Malcolm Chisholm meeting (along the lines of we are discussing the legal advice with the Scottish Executive and that we want to approach this in a common way). Andrew Smith's office will circulate something tomorrow on this.

Many thanks,

Sammy