



**THE
HAEMOPHILIA
SOCIETY**

The Haemophilia Society
123 Westminster Bridge Road
London SE1 7HR

Telephone: 0171 928 2020
Facsimile: 0171 620 1416

Our Ref: GB/mw

26 May, 1995

Mr **GRO-A**

GRO-A

Cardiff, **GRO-A**

Dear Mr **GRO-A**

Thank you for your letter and support in contacting your local MP. The more MP's we get writing to the Secretary of State for Health the better. However the campaign is still in its early stages and as a result we will need members to contact their MP's again in the future. We will keep you informed of future activities and rely on your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

GRO-C

Graham Barker
Director of Services and Development

CARING FOR PEOPLE WITH HAEMOPHILIA

Registered Charity No. 288260. A company registered in England and limited by guarantee. Registered Company No. 1763614.

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22/5/95

PLEASE FIND ENCLOSED

A LETTER RE

THE MCV CAMPAIGN.

FOR YOUR RECORDS

THANK YOU.

GRO-A

RECEIVED



26 MAY 1995

Please acknowledge

Y SWYDDFA GYMREIG
GWYDYR HOUSE
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2ER
Tel. 071-270 3000 (Switsfwrdd)
071-270 (Llinell Union)
Fax: 071-270 0568

Oddi wrth yr Is-Ysgrifennydd Seneddol



GWILYM JONES MP

WELSH OFFICE
GWYDYR HOUSE
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2ER
Tel. 071-270 3000 (Switchboard)
071-270 (Direct Line)
Fax: 071-270 0568

From The Parliamentary Under-Secretary

R/848/95

17 May 1995

GRO-A Esq

GRO-A

CARDIFF

GRO-A

Dear Mr GRO-A

Thank you for your letter of 18 April 1995 about compensation for haemophilia patients who have been infected with the hepatitis C virus. I was sorry to learn that your son suffers with haemophilia.

I am advised that most haemophilia patients were infected with hepatitis C before blood products were treated to destroy viruses and patients received the best treatment available at the time. The Government does not accept that there has been negligence and has no plans to make payments to individuals infected with hepatitis C. In the instance of HIV infection with hepatitis C, the Government accepted that patients who, tragically, contracted HIV through NHS treatment were in a different position from others and made provision for them because of their very special circumstances.

The UK Health Departments are considering a range of initiatives to improve the understanding, treatment and management of hepatitis C. This includes encouragement of research into the condition and guidance to the NHS on best practice where there is a clinical consensus. Only in this way can the impact of the disease on individual patients and their families be effectively minimised. Although there are no plans for a public education programme at present, the Health Departments have announced a UK-wide look back exercise with a view to tracing, counselling and, where appropriate, treating those who have been put at risk as a result of exposure to the hepatitis C virus through blood transfusion. This work has already been put in hand and will be undertaken as quickly as possible. I hope that this will reassure you that the Government will do all it can to care for those affected.

I understand that Dr Hampton at the Haemophilia Reference Centre is currently considering, with the management of the University Hospital of Wales NHS Trust, how the centre can best operate in its new location and integrate advantageously with other



specialist and support services. Dr Hampton is also working on proposals to identify more clearly the costs associated with providing a top quality and comprehensive service whilst securing the financial stability of the Centre. He will liaise closely with the board of the trust which has overall responsibility for the success of these initiatives.

The question of the use of synthetic Factor 8 is, of course, a matter for clinical judgement in individual cases and doctors are free to prescribe it, if they regard it as the best method of treatment. The choice is a matter for discussion with the appropriate clinician and I suggest, therefore, that you take up your concerns about safety with Dr Hampton.

~~Yours sincerely~~

GRO-C