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The Rt Hon David Mellor QC MP
Chief Secretary
Treasury Chambers
Parliament Street
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CHIEF SECRETARY	
REC.	17 DEC 1991
COPIES TO	G. DICKSON
	CC: SUTBURN
	MR MONCK, MR EDWARDS
	MR A. ALAN, MR KELLY
	MR GINCE, MR S. KELLY

7 December 1991

Dear David,

*Mr Gilhooly, Dr Robinson
Mr Lightfoot.*

BLOOD TRANSFUSION ETC PATIENTS WITH HIV

I have seen a copy of William Waldegrave's letter of 2 December to you about those non-haemophiliac patients infected with HIV in the course of treatment and I support his proposals for a settlement. I too would favour the second option of linkage with the Macfarlane Trust as this is the cleaner solution.

There is much public sympathy in Scotland for the handful of cases here and much will be made if we continue to present an unsympathetic response. These unfortunate people will eventually be forced into Court. At least 2 cases in Scotland have now applied for legal aid and there could be damaging publicity at each stage of the legal process.

While it is difficult to estimate the total Scottish costs it seems on present information likely to be around £900,000. Like William, I would be prepared to find a third of these costs if the Treasury would meet the balance from the Reserve. An early decision in principle on funding would be helpful.

I am sending a copy of this letter to William Waldegrave, Peter Brooke and David Hunt.

Yours ever,

GRO-C

IAN LANG