

Jane Hutt AM
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Cardiff Bay
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Our ref: JH/02890/02

Jan Wallace
Secretary
Haemophilia Wales
1st Floor
100 Whitchurch Road
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24 October 2002

Dear Jan,

Thank you for your letter of 24 September regarding a further compensation package for people with haemophilia infected with HIV as a result of receiving infected blood products.

I have great sympathy for everyone who has suffered harm as a result of NHS treatment and the obvious distress this must cause them and their families.

In general, compensation is only given for those who suffer negligent damage from NHS treatment. However, the Government introduced a special payments scheme for people infected with HIV in the 1980s, The MacFarlane Trust. At that time HIV was a source of fear and stigma for all those who became infected with the virus and there was widespread public reaction. HIV was then a new sexually transmitted infection that was rapidly fatal. There was no treatment and at that time death from AIDS related disease was considered inevitable. It was in this context that a special payments scheme was introduced. We see this as a reflection of those truly exceptional circumstances and the very poor prognosis at that time for people with haemophilia who became infected with HIV.

The Welsh Assembly Government has no plans to review or extend the special payments scheme that currently operates.

With best wishes,



BUDDSODDWR MEWN
INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

GRO-C