

SIGNING

Heather Rogers PS/SoS

From: Mike McGovern

Date: 26 November 1997

SoS

I have already written to the HS apologising for the delay. Officials are not in a position to provide a full reply due to the reasons stated below. We've asked for an interim reply for your signature, attached, if you're content.

cc:

Mr Fah PS/M(PH)
Ms Casemore PS/MS(L)
Ms McLain APS/Perm. Sec
Mr Stevens Sp Adviser
Mr McCrea Sp Adviser
Dr Shepherd PS/CMO
Dr Winyard DCMO
Dr Metters DCMO
Mr Hewlett HSD1
Ms Mithani HP3
Mr Dean HP4B
Ms Corrigan HSD1
Ms Skinner HSD1

Draft SoS Interim Reply to Haemophilia Society

GRO-C: H

1. Secretary of State met with the Haemophilia Society on 10 September to discuss special payments for haemophiliacs infected with hepatitis C and the provision of recombinant Factor VIII in the context of the UK Haemophilia Centre Directors Organisation guidelines.
2. SoS promised to write to the Society about these issues as soon as possible after that meeting. Regrettably, since that time the emergence, and continuing predominance, of the nvCJD issue has meant that developments in that area have had to take precedence. As a result we have not yet completed our examination of the issues and are still consulting with colleagues about the possibilities and the best way forward. We aim, however, to provide a full submission by close of play 5 December.
3. Officials have been in contact with the Society, who appreciate that more time is needed to consider these issues in detail. They recognise that these are extremely complex matters and that both requests would be very expensive to meet. However, they would welcome some indication as to when they might expect to hear from the Secretary of State.
4. A draft interim reply is accordingly provided which takes account of the new concerns about nvCJD and the safety of plasma derived coagulation products.

Dr Mike McGovern

Health Services Directorate