

Mr Peter Stevens  
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*26 January 2006.*

*Dear Mr Stevens*

**Re: Macfarlane and Eileen Trusts**

Thank you for your letter of 24 November and the attached document, "Funding Long Term Survival". I apologise for my delay in replying, but I have considered your report carefully.

Let me say at the outset that I have every sympathy for the registrants of both the Macfarlane and the Eileen Trusts and their families, and much respect for the way in which they are coping with their problems. I am pleased that advances in HIV treatment have increased the life expectancy of many of the Trusts' registrants.

We have not yet set budget figures for any Departmental budgets for next year, as priorities for all Departmental programmes are currently being reassessed. The Secretary of State has said that all of the Department's central budgets should be looked at to ensure they give value for money. We will be in touch with you again when this process is completed.

I understand that you are approaching the end of your term as chair of the Macfarlane Trust and I would like to thank you for your work on behalf of the Trust. The Department is indebted to individuals such as yourself who contribute to our work. I would, of course be pleased to meet with you, but I suggest that it would be the best approach if I met you together with the incoming chair, when your replacement has been identified, to welcome him, or her, to the position and to discuss the forward work of the Trust over the next year. It seems that the optimum timing for this meeting could be in April or May, which would also fit with the annual reporting and accounts cycle. I will ask my office to contact you to make the arrangements for this in due course.

*Yours sincerely*

**GRO C**

**CAROLINE FLINT**