

Hazel

Hep C Compensation

1. Officials have asked for a further steer you from on this issue.
2. When we last got an update, you thought it important that we wait to see what the legal position was before proceeding. There is now a general understanding with DWP Ministers that the Law Officers are not to be hurried. This should ensure that a decision does not have to be taken before the Scottish Elections (purdah starts on 1 April).
3. There is still outstanding correspondence from Michael Connarty (and the Haemophilia Society, it is now 9 months since the Society presented their proposals) on this issue. Even if Scotland do have the power to make payments, this will not affect our 'no payments' stance in England - although it will put us under increased pressure (apart from anything else, there is no funding for this over the next three years).
4. Given the continued delay officials are advising that we now reply to MC saying firmly that there is no prospect of any form of special payments scheme being agreed for haemophiliacs in England. We would therefore not be taking up MC's offer of a meeting to discuss the Haemophilia Society's proposals in more detail, although we are very grateful for all the work they have done etc. ✓
5. Are you content to write to MC on this basis? Or do you still wish to wait for clarity on the legal position in Scotland, accepting that there is, inevitably, going to be a further delay.
6. This issue was due to be discussed with SoS at the stocktake and I presume he would want to be considered on any further action. ✓

Thanks

Rob
27/3

I am happy to be firm on this issue.

- ① I think we have to show we have properly considered the H. Soc's submission as we said we would
- ② SoS needs to be aware