

EDDIE O'HARA M.P.
(Knowsley South)



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16th April 1998

Mrs.M.Murphy

GRO-C

Merseyside.

Dear Mrs.Murphy,

I enclose a copy of the reply I have now received from Baroness Jay of Paddington, Minister of State, at the Department of Health, advising me that it has still not been possible to reach a decision with regard to a special payment scheme for those with haemophilia infected with hepatitis C through NHS treatment.

You will probably know that a meeting has recently been held with concerned MPs and representatives of the Haemophilia Society, at which it transpired that a number of us had received similar letters. The general view was that Frank Dobson is genuinely concerned to be sympathetic and positive but that his advisers are warning him of technical difficulties. The outcome of the meeting was that we determined to send a joint letter to Frank Dobson. I gave my approval yesterday to a draft of this. Doubtless the Haemophilia Society will receive a copy of the final version. I think that the Haemophilia Society were happy with the outcome of our meeting.

I shall, of course, keep you informed of developments.

Yours sincerely,

GRO-C



Richmond House 79 Whitehall London SW1A 2NS Telephone 0171 210 3000
From the Minister of State

POH(6)5377/13

Eddie O'Hara Esq MP

'14 APR 1998

Aw Eddie,

Thank you for your letter of 9 February to Frank Dobson concerning Mrs Maureen Murphy of **GRO-C** about financial provision for people with haemophilia who have been infected with hepatitis C through NHS treatment. I am sorry that you have not had an earlier reply.

As Mrs Murphy has advised you, the Secretary of State met with the Haemophilia Society in September last year. He has corresponded with them since then, and he had hoped to be able to reach a decision very quickly on the concerns which they expressed. However while progress has been achieved in one area raised, the availability of recombinant Factor VIII to young people under 16 and new patients, it has not yet been possible for Mr Dobson to give a response on the issue of a special payment scheme for those with haemophilia infected with hepatitis C through NHS treatment.

I do appreciate Mrs Murphy's wish to bring the matter to a close, but I hope she will accept that this is a very complex area and that Mr Dobson remains committed to exploring it fully before arriving at a decision.

With best wishes

GRO-C

BARONESS JAY OF PADDINGTON