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Monday 20 November 2006

PQ00208

2006/2007

Written Answer

Han Ref:

Vol 453

Wednesday 22 November 2006

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BLOOD TRANSFUSIONS

767 Mr Stephen O'Brien (C.Eddisbury)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, why haemophiliacs with hepatitis C virus contracted through blood transfusions in the last 25 years have been paid less per person in compensation than those with HIV. [101606].

CAROLINE FLINT

Unlike the Macfarlane and Eileen Trusts, which administer schemes for those infected with HIV, the ex gratia payment scheme for those infected with hepatitis C as a result of national health service treatment with blood or blood products, known as the Skipton Fund, is not a charitable trust.

The Skipton Fund has been designed to make lump sum, ex gratia payments to those living with the hepatitis C virus. The payments are not compensation.

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O'Brien, Mr Stephen (Conservative EDDISBURY):

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SUGGESTED REPLY

Unlike the Macfarlane and Eileen Trusts, which administer schemes for those infected with HIV, the ex gratia payment scheme for those infected with hepatitis C as a result of national health service treatment with blood or blood products, known as the Skipton Fund, is not a charitable trust.

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Background

1. Stephen O'Brien MP has asked several questions in the last Parliamentary session on issues concerning haemophilia patients. This PQ draws comparisons between the Skipton Fund and the more generous Macfarlane Trust to demonstrate that those with hepatitis C are being treated unfairly.
2. The basis of the two schemes is distinct and they are designed to fulfil different purposes. The Macfarlane Trust is a charitable trust providing on-going support for victims and their families whilst the Skipton Fund is a one-off ex gratia scheme designed to financially assist those living with hepatitis C.
3. The Macfarlane Trust was set up to assist haemophilia patients infected with HIV/AIDS through contaminated blood products and the Eileen Trust was set up to assist patients infected with HIV/AIDS through blood transfusion.

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

PQ00208	2006/2007
Commons Ordinary Written	

Mr Stephen O'Brien (Eddisbury): To ask the Secretary of State for Health, why haemophiliacs with hepatitis C virus contracted through blood transfusions in the last 25 years have been paid less per person in compensation than those with HIV. [101606].

For Answer on:	20/11/2006
Notice Paper Date:	17/11/2006
Notice Paper Page:	119
MP (Party):	Stephen O'Brien MP (Conservative)

DRAFT REPLY TO REACH PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH BY
12:00 Wednesday 22 November 2006

GRO-C: Caroline Flint

21/11/2006

JCF
21/11

PARLIAMENTARY RELATIONS UNIT

FINAL MINUTE

1. Reply approved by:

Name	<i>Ailsa Wight</i>	Building	<i>Wel Hse</i>
		Room	<i>520</i>
Branch	<i>General Health Protection</i>	Ext	GRO-C
		Date	<i>21 November 2006</i>

Name	<i>Zubeda Seedat</i>	Ext	GRO-C
Room	<i>530</i>	Building	<i>Wel Hse</i>

3. The following special points should be noted:

ANSWERED PQ - FEEDBACK SHEET

This PQ file has been returned to you because you drafted the answer. A copy of the *official reply*, as sent to the MP who tabled the question, is behind this sheet. Behind that is your *original draft* as annotated/amended/signed by the Minister who answered it. There are **four** tasks for you now:

1. Hansard checking:

The *official reply* was sent to Hansard (and the MP) on the date shown. Hansard has now printed the answer. We have made an initial check of Hansard's version and where necessary have arranged for any printing errors to be corrected in the bound volume. It is your responsibility now to make a final check and to notify us immediately of any errors that you find. This printed version of Hansard is available from the DH library, or on-line at <http://www.parliament.uk/hansard/hansard.cfm>.

2. Ministerial feedback:

Your *original draft* for this PQ may have been amended or annotated by the Minister who answered it. Please read the Minister's comments/changes carefully - they will tell you about his/her preferred style and/or the content of draft replies and help you with future drafts.

3. Follow up action:

If the reply promises some follow up action - for example, to write to the MP, now or in the future, with further information about the question/topic - it is your responsibility to see that this is done. A record of these promises is kept by the House of Commons Library. Any that remain unfulfilled by the end of the Parliamentary session are notified to us and such omissions will be embarrassing to the Department.

4. File disposal:

You should now place all these papers in a registered file.