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Wednesday 18 April 2007

PQ04532

2006/2007

Written Answer

Han Ref:

Vol 459

Wednesday 2 May 2007

Col 1772-73W

~~HAEMOPHILIACS~~ Blood Contamination

183 Mr Adam Holloway (C. Gravesham)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what estimate she has made of the number of haemophiliacs who were infected with HIV and hepatitis C through blood transfusions when they were children, but are unable to receive hardship funds through the Macfarlane Trust and the Skipton Fund; and if she will make a statement. [132463].

CAROLINE FLINT

The Macfarlane Trust was set up in 1988 to provide financial help to patients with haemophilia infected with the HIV virus and their families.

The Skipton Fund was set up in 2004 to administer an ex-gratia payment scheme for patients infected with hepatitis C following National Health Service treatment with blood or blood products. Haemophilia patients who were infected with hepatitis C are eligible for a payment under the Skipton Fund.

Anyone eligible for payments, should have received them. The Department is examining two cases where individuals claim that they have not received payments they may be entitled to.

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Holloway, Mr Adam (Conservative GRAVESHAM):

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SUGGESTED REPLY

The Macfarlane Trust was set up in 1988 to provide financial help to patients with haemophilia infected with the HIV virus and their families.

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Anyone eligible for payments, should have received them. The Department is examining two cases where individuals claim that they have not received payments they may be entitled to.

✓ GRO-C

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

PQ04532	2006/2007
Commons Ordinary Written	

Mr Adam Holloway (Gravesham): To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what estimate she has made of how many haemophiliacs were infected with HIV and hepatitis C through blood transfusions when they were children, but are unable to receive hardship funds through the Macfarlane Trust and the Skipton Fund; and if she will make a statement. [132463].

For Answer on:	18/04/2007
Notice Paper Date:	17/04/2007
Notice Paper Page:	3304
MP (Party):	Adam Holloway MP (Conservative)

DRAFT REPLY TO REACH PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH BY

12:00 Friday 20 April 2007

Caroline Flint 27/04

GRO-C 11517

Background

1. We are aware of a couple of cases where haemophiliacs have contacted the Department to enquire about why they have not received payments which they consider they are entitled to following their infection with HIV through contaminated blood products. In both cases the patients have queried why they have not received a payment of £20k (see para 5 below). In both cases the patients were under 18 at the time of infection.

2. Despite these cases we are not aware of anyone who is eligible for payment who has been denied payment from the Macfarlane Trust or the Skipton Fund. We are seeking to establish the arrangements that were in place in the 1990's to make payments to children under 18 who were infected with HIV, and whether children under 18 were eligible for the payment of £20k. We have approached the Macfarlane Trust, however they have been unable to assist. We are making enquiries of staff previously employed by the Trust. Depending on the outcome of these enquiries consideration will be given to the need for payment to be made.

The Macfarlane Trust

3. The Macfarlane Trust was set up by the Government in 1988 following a campaign by the Haemophilia Society on behalf of those people with haemophilia who had contracted HIV infection through contaminated blood products in the late 1970s and early 1980s. The remit of the Macfarlane Trust is "to relieve people suffering from haemophilia who as a result of receiving infected blood products in the UK are suffering from AIDS or are infected with HIV and who are in need of assistance or their needy spouses, and other dependants after the death of the person".

4. The Trust was provided with £10m, to enable it to make weekly payments and grants to HIV infected haemophiliacs and their families on the basis of special need.

5. In November 1989, the Government of the day announced that it would make a further **£19m** available. This would enable the Trust "to make individual payments of £20k. These would go to each person with Haemophilia who is infected with the AIDS virus as a result of treatment with blood products in the UK or to the family of such a person who has died". The additional funding was also "to enable the Trust to continue on a more generous scale their help to families in particular need".

6. On 10 June 1991 the Government announced the conclusion of the HIV litigation and the terms of a settlement by those who were pursuing action. The Government agreed **£42m** would be made available, under the settlement the following payment would be made:

- single adult: £ 23,500 each
- married adult without dependent children: £32,000 each
- adult with dependent children: £60,500 each
- Infant (person under 18): £21,500 each

Infected intimates:

- Adults or married infants: £23,500 each
- unmarried infants: £21500 each

Payments were administered through the Macfarlane (Special Payments) (No 2) Trust.

Monthly payments range between £255 to £650 depending on whether partners are also affected and number of dependent children. Payments do not affect entitlements to benefits.

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>26 April 2007</i>

2. Reply composed by:

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:

For the attention of:

Room No:

Building:

Answered Parliamentary Question – Feedback sheet

This PQ 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 in the Department of Health 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.

If you have any queries or require further information please do not hesitate to contact the Parliamentary Relations Unit in Richmond House on 020 7210 5595.