

Important Confidential

From: Ms Claire Phillips, HCD-SCS of Department of Health
Subject: Hepatitis C research
Item posted: Wed 8 Jan 97 16:33
To: Dr Peter Doyle, HCD-SCS(A)1 of Department of Health
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I met PS(H) this morning to talk about the hep C submission (which, as you may have noticed, I rewrote yet again). He is putting this up to SofS tomorrow. One of the issues he raised is the possibility of spending more on research than the money we are currently (£1m plus whatever the HTA costs - say, £1.3m altogether). He asked whether this would be useful and I said that it certainly would in terms of presentation to the profession as well as helping us to address the problems that hepatitis C presents.

He will discuss this with SofS but I thought I would warn you of this possibility. I am not sure how far we have got with awarding contracts for the research that we started to commission a year ago - were there many/any good proposals that we couldn't fund? Would it be possible to revive some of them? My recollection was that the sero-prevalence work was going to cost more than we had anticipated leaving less for the other work on transmission and natural history. On the treatment element, we are writing to the Wessex IPH to ask if we can meet them to discuss the proposals for the HTA into Alpha Interferon.

I am on leave for the next two days but contactable by e-mail or phone on GRO-C.

Claire