

To: Sarah Crossland
PS/Baroness Hayman

From: Christine Corrigan HSD1

Date: 31 August 1998

Copies: Dr McGovern HSD1
Mr Webb SC6
Mrs Skinner HSD1

Invitation to meet with the Macfarlane Trust

1. I am sorry that I was unable to meet your deadline for reply on this. I wanted to explore a couple of other possible funding sources, but these have not turned out fruitful.

2. The letter from the Trust sets out the full background to the Trust's existence and the recent developments which led to the Statagic Review (which the Department in fact specifically asked the Macfarlane Trust to conduct, but which they were already contemplating). The Trust have now written requesting further funding to support the review and for a meeting with Baroness Hayman.

3. I am a little surprised by the request for significant extra funding this late in the day, and also by the fact that Alan Tanner seems to imply that the review will be completed by the autumn, regardless of whether the Department provides that funding. Section 64 funds are already over-committed this year, not least because of a very late request from the Haemophilia Society for support (£50,000) for a project aimed at providing information and advice for young haemophiliacs with hepatitis C, which Secretary of State supported. There are a number of other organisations who have already bid for any further Section 64 funds which might become available due to slippage of other projects/spending, and I can see no grounds for claiming that this should take precedence over their claims. It might also be helpful for officials to have the opportunity to meet with the Trust to discuss the review in more depth before they go too much further. There are certain aspects of the preliminary findings which might be a cause for concern and which we would like to check out with them.

4. In the light of all that, while Baroness Hayman should definitely agree to meet them, this would be better once we have the outcome of the review and their proposals for their future. We would therefore suggest delaying the meeting until then. A draft reply to that effect is attached.

31/08/98

Christine Corrigan

HSD1

416, WEL

Ext: **GRO-C**