



Department  
of Health  
PO-1038230

From Jane Ellison MP  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Public Health

Richmond House  
79 Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2NS

020 7210 4850

Mr Dan Farthing-Sykes  
Chief Executive Officer  
Haemophilia Scotland  
4th Floor Hayweight House  
23 Lauriston Street  
Edinburgh EH3 9DQ

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*Dear Mr Farthing-Sykes*

Thank you for your letters of 9 June to Jeremy Hunt and me about support to people infected with HIV and/or hepatitis C through NHS blood products.

As you know, health is a devolved matter and therefore providing support to those infected with HIV and/or hepatitis C through NHS blood products in Scotland is a matter for the Scottish Government.

However, I can assure you there is no intentional obstruction by the Department of Health to the Scottish Government providing the increased levels of support it has announced. There are various ways in which the Scottish Government can make these payments, one of which involves amending existing scheme documentation. Since the current scheme bodies operate on a UK-wide basis, any change to scheme documentation requires agreement from all four UK Health Departments. No decisions have been made yet on scheme reform for those infected in England, or in Wales or Northern Ireland.

Officials in the Department of Health are collaborating with officials in the Scottish Government to identify the best way to make the new and increased payments they have announced as soon as possible.

I hope this reply is helpful.

*Please be assured this important matter  
is receiving attention. Kind regards*

JANE ELLISON

*Jane Ellison*