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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY

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From the Secretary of State for Social Services

The Rt Hon Sir Keith Joseph Bt MP
Secretary of State for Education and Science
Department of Education and Science
Elizabeth House
York Road
LONDON
SE1 7PH

5 December 1985

NBPM

Dear Secretary of State,

AIDS

We had a word today about funding of the MRC for the proposed national centre for co-ordination of epidemiological research on AIDS about which you wrote to me on 6 November and further on 2 December.

There is no difference between us that this research is crucial to our understanding of the spread of the AIDS virus in the UK. In view of the very high priority which we attach to effective action to control the spread of the disease, therefore, I am content to join you in providing funds to meet the cost of the MRC's AIDS epidemiological research centre. You have offered to contribute £200,000 a year; I am willing to make available from my Vote my share of the balance needed to mount the project. On present costings, which are, I understand, not yet finalised, this would mean my contribution would be up to about £0.25 million. I hope George Younger and Nick Edwards will be able to see their way to contributing likewise. However, I should say that this is in no sense intended to alter the arrangements for financing the MRC which we set up in 1980.

I am copying this letter to all members of the Cabinet, to Sir Robert Armstrong and Sir Robin Nicholson.

Yours sincerely

for NORMAN FOWLER
(Approved by the Secretary of State
and signed in his absence)

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NAT HEALTH : Aids : Aug 1985

