

IRISH HAEMOPHILIA SOCIETY

PRESS RELEASE

Date: 27th February, 2008

RE; INSURANCE SCHEME FOR PERSONS WITH HEPATITIS C & OR HIV

On January it was announced that the Bank of Ireland had been approved as an insurer for the specific Insurance Scheme available for persons who had been state infected with Hepatitis C and or HIV through blood or blood products. “At that time, we welcomed the Bank of Ireland entry into the Scheme, as we assumed they would provide access to insurance on the same basis as the existing insurer, Eagle Star”, stated Brian O’Mahony, Chief Executive of the Irish Haemophilia Society. This is not the case. Bank of Ireland will not insure individuals for a period greater than 40 years despite the fact that the Scheme operates until people reach the age of 75, and some may seek insurance in their 20’s. Bank of Ireland are insisting that individuals seek access to the Scheme using their branch network, and they will not deal with brokers or independent financial advisors. The I.H.S. views this as unacceptable and inappropriate, and we are concerned that this may be detrimental to the confidentiality of their members. “We are advising our members who are eligible to take out insurance that we do not regard Bank of Ireland as meeting the requirements of an approved insurer and we recommend that they do not contact Bank of Ireland regarding life insurance”, stated Mr. O’Mahony.