

WESSEX MEDICAL TRUST: GRANT OF FUNDS

**Lodged au Greffe on 19th January 1999
by the Finance and Economics Committee**

STATES OF JERSEY

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PROPOSITION

THE STATES are asked to decide whether they are of opinion -

to approve the payment of a grant of £200,000 to the Wessex Medical Trust towards the cost of approved research projects agreed by the Trustees.

FINANCE AND ECONOMICS COMMITTEE

REPORT

1. Introduction

The Wessex Medical Trust was formed in 1977 with the purpose of providing essential independent financial support to the Wessex New Medical School at Southampton University. Statutory funding to the Medical School has always required supplementation through charity donations and sponsorship, in order to attract and retain the best calibre of medical researchers.

The Trust support all fields of medical research throughout Wessex (an area comprising Dorset, Hampshire, The Isle of Wight, Wiltshire and part of Avon) and the Channel Islands, and provides staff, materials and equipment not funded from statutory sources. The Bailiffs of both Jersey and Guernsey are Vice-Patrons.

2. Previous support for the Wessex Medical Trust

It is recognised that Jersey residents receive long-term benefits from the Trust's research activities, through the furthering of medical knowledge, and that this is quite separate from the specialist treatment provided on a daily basis through the reciprocal health agreement.

The States of Jersey have previously made donations of £100,000 in 1984 and £200,000 in 1988. These donations have been directed by the Trustees into areas such as research into liver diseases, malignant lymphoma and various childhood diseases and development disorders. The States of Guernsey have also provided substantial support to the Trust, believed to exceed £500,000 since its inception, and in recent years agreed an annual contribution in the order of £80,000.

3. Request for further support

The Wessex Medical Trust has requested the Health and Social Services Committee to consider making a grant to assist in funding two major appeals held in 1998, the 21st anniversary year of the Trust -

- to raise £210,000 for pump-priming grants - each of £10,000 - to twenty-one innovative medical research projects into various diseases;
- to support a £500,000 project on Southampton women to research heart disease, diabetes and stroke.

The Committee agreed that it would wish to support an *ex gratia* grant of £200,000 to the Wessex Medical Trust. The Finance and Economics Committee has also considered the request and believe it wholly appropriate for the Island to contribute to the work of the Trust, particularly in view of the potential benefits to Islanders.

The Finance and Economics Committee is also recommending that an annual contribution be made to the Trust to assist with future special projects and would suggest a figure in the order of £50,000.

4. Although the Finance and Economics Committee has the authority under the Public Finances (Administration) (Jersey) Law 1967, as amended, to approve the granting of additional monies from the General Reserve, the Committee believes it appropriate to bring this request to the attention of the House.