

HIM 19

## EARLY DAY MOTION 561: HAEMOPHILIA

### Line to Take

The Government understands that haemophiliacs infected with hepatitis C want to know how it happened and why it could not have been prevented, however, all the information is in the public domain and the Government does not believe that anyone's interest would be best served by a public inquiry. We have reviewed the decision taken by the previous Government not to offer financial assistance to haemophiliacs infected with hepatitis C through blood products. Our decision was that an exception could not be made to the general rule that compensation or financial help is only given when the NHS, or individuals working in it, have been at fault.

### Background

#### Public Inquiry

1. We are aware that a number of other countries have held public inquiries into a similar situation and have offered compensation to those infected. These were matters for those countries to decide taking into account their own particular circumstances. The Government has considered the call for a public enquiry very carefully but do not think it is the way to go forward. All the information concerning this issue is in the public domain.

#### Compensation

2. There is a long running campaign by haemophiliacs to obtain compensation for infection with hepatitis C through contaminated blood products before the technology existed to inactivate the virus. As the NHS introduced viral inactivation as soon as the technology became available in the mid 1980s, Ministers in this, and the previous, Government have concluded that a compensation scheme could not be justified. This issue has been debated in both Houses on numerous occasions.

3. A High Court Judgement made on 26<sup>th</sup> March involved people who had contracted hepatitis C through blood transfusions and was made under the Consumer Protection Act (CPA) 1987. The decision was made in the claimants' favour. This Judgement does not however affect the Government's decision on compensation for haemophiliacs infected with hepatitis C as the CPA it did not come into force until March 1988.

2390

## Notices of Motions: 9th April 2001

No. 69

561 *HAEMOPHILIACS* X

9:4:01

Mr Fraser Kemp

★ 1

That this House supports the recent march and rally by haemophiliacs in support of an urgent inquiry into the issue of contaminated blood and the non-testing of concentrates; and further believes that treatment should be of the highest quality, with fair and just compensation to the victims.

562 *LEGAL SERVICES OMBUDSMAN*

9:4:01

Mr Austin Mitchell

★ 1

That this House deplores the proposed attempt to introduce legislation under the Regulatory Reform Bill to provide the statutorily required, non-legally qualified, Legal Services Ombudsman with authority to delegate the signing of her reports to a solicitor; and notes with concern the absence of the LSO from her office and her inability to sign the document required of her has more to do with the fact that she has been devoting a considerable part of her time to the Neil Committee to which she was appointed in January 2000 and to her work as a non-executive director of the Benefits Agency rather than to the none-too onerous task of giving her statutory signature and attention to the work of the beleaguered Legal Services Ombudsman.

563 *PUBLIC OWNERSHIP OF RAILTRACK*

9:4:01

Mr Austin Mitchell

★ 1

That this House notes the manifest failure of Railtrack to provide for public safety adequate maintenance, or proper service so that now as a result of its own incompetence it is in a desperate financial situation and is kept going only by massive injections of public money; calls on Her Majesty's Government to use the time available now that the election has been postponed to introduce a bill for the renationalisation of Railtrack, paying compensation at the lowest share price reached so far on the basis of exchanging public debt for shares so that in the new Parliament Railtrack can become the firm publicly-owned base for the development of an effective modern railway system comparable with those in other European countries.

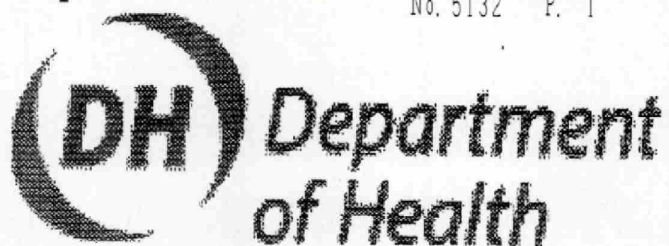
564 *INDEPENDENCE OF AUDITORS*

9:4:01

Mr Austin Mitchell  
Mr Jim Cousins

★ 2

That this House, is concerned by the revelations of the belated DTI report on the Maxwell case, and by the long line of other investigations all of which have asked 'Where were the auditors?' in cases of failures and fraud; believes that it is now time to ensure proper independent regulation of auditing to make it a system of independent and effective invigilation of companies; and urges Her Majesty's Government while preparing these independent structures to introduce immediate legislation to require firstly that auditors are prohibited from selling other services to companies they audit, so as to prevent the development of a dependent or collusive relationship between auditors and those currently running companies, particularly the chief executive, and second that the auditors of multinational companies are changed at regular intervals to ensure a fresh pair of eyes on the company's affairs and prevent the kind of collusive relationships, which existed in such major frauds such as BCCI, Maxwell and a host of other company scandals.



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## FAX COVER SHEET

## PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH

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TO: CHARLES LISTER

ADDRESS: .....

TICK	SENDER	EXTENSION (020-7210) GTN 210
	JEREMY MEAN	GRO-C
	TONY SAMPSON	GRO-C
	KATY MACDERMOTT	GRO-C
	JOHN CHAN	GRO-C
✓	HELENE SHAW	GRO-C
	DAVID SAXBY	GRO-C
	DEBBIE BALL	GRO-C
	SUSAN ERUOHWO	GRO-C

NO OF PAGES TO FOLLOW: 2 DATE: 10/4

If you have any queries regarding this fax please contact the sender ticked above

MESSAGE: Charles, please find EDM Stel attached. I'd  
be grateful if you could provide a line to take and  
short background note by 10.30am today. I apologise  
for the short deadline. Thank you, Helene Shaw



## **URGENT – PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS – REQUEST FOR URGENT BRIEFING**

### **EARLY DAY MOTION**

Attached is the text of an Early Day Motion which appeared on today's Order Paper.

Early Day Motions give back-bench MPs the opportunity to express an opinion on Government policies or current issues. They are requests for a debate on an "early day" but in practice they are rarely debated.

Every Thursday the Leader of the House, Margaret Beckett makes an announcement of business for the forthcoming week (Business Statement). There is then a brief period for questions and it is during this time that an MP may succeed in raising his particular EDM. It is for the Leader to respond and briefing is required on every EDM tabled. Like briefing for the Prime Minister, this briefing is for a senior Government Minister and member of the Cabinet, who will be responding on behalf of the Department. It is therefore **vital that the deadline is met.**

Briefing should be in the form of;

- i) A line to take concentrating on the central point at issue and of not more than two sentences typed in bold print.

**The briefing should be returned to me by E MAIL by 10.30AM TODAY – if this is not possible please contact Helene Shaw ( GRO-C ) or Jeremy Mean ( GRO-C ).**

It is important that EDMs which remain topical are regularly revised. I should be grateful if you would bear this in mind and provide updated briefing if and when required.