

COVERING CONFIDENTIAL

4E 10

Mrs Shirley-Quirk APS/SofS

From: J C Dobson

EHF1

Date: 1 October 1990

Copies: Mr Waterhouse PS/Perm Sec
Mr Heppell PG
Mr Powell SOL
Mrs Christopherson ID

HIV-INFECTED LITIGATION

1. Further to my submission of earlier today, I attach a further^{Version} (Version III) of the reply to the Judge, amended in the light of comments from Counsel. Changes from Version II are sidelined. If Secretary of State is content, we will arrange for Mr Heppell to send this letter to the Treasury Solicitor for him to pass on to the Judge and to the Plaintiffs' solicitor. We suggest that Secretary of State waits until after his meeting with Mr Martin before agreeing to the final form of the letter.
2. Secretary of State will wish to consider whether, in the view of the publication in full of the Judge's statement in yesterday's "Sunday Times", this reply should also be made publicly available. (It has been drafted with this in mind). Given the danger that parts of the reply will be quoted selectively if we merely pass copies to the Plaintiffs' solicitors, it might be safest to put the full text firmly on the public record by means of a press statement.
3. We also need to reply to the letter from Pannone Napier (Annex E of my earlier submission). The Solicitor General appeared to be thinking in terms of a separate reply, but Counsel have suggested that it would be simpler if we merely acknowledge the Pannone Napier letter in passing on to them a copy of the main letter to the Treasury Solicitor. Unless Secretary of State wishes otherwise, we propose to follow this suggestion. The Treasury Solicitor will separately be sending to the Plaintiffs the letter on recovery of costs which, in substance, Secretary of State has already seen and agreed.
4. Is Secretary of State content for us to proceed as indicated?

GRO-C

J C DOBSON

EHF1

Room 511 Ext

GRO-C

EH