

Mr T S Heppell
PG
Room 514
RH

4E10

From: Ronald Powell SOLB3
Date: 5 October 1990
Copy: Mrs Shirley-Quirk
APS/SoS

Mr Sands PS/MSH
Mr Waterhouse PS/
Perm Sec

Dr Smales PS/CMO
Mr Thompson SOL
Mr Nilsson SOLB
Mr Dobson EHF1
Mr Canavan EHF1A
Mr Alder MC
Mrs Christopherson
ID

Miss Bendall SOLC5
Mr M Jones
Welsh Office

Mr Whitbread MB1C

HIV HAEMOPHILIAC LITIGATION

1. I attended the opening part of the further procedural hearing this morning.
2. At the beginning of the hearing Mr Justice Ognall made a short but pointed statement about the recent publicity surrounding these proceedings. The Judge said that the hearing on the 26th June 1990 was in chambers (the clear implication being that they were therefore confidential). He strongly deplored the publication of part of those proceedings and reminded all parties involved and their legal advisers that the proceedings, including today's proceedings, were in chambers. He hoped that the legal advisers present would draw this point to the attention of their clients and those directly affected by the case. He reminded all present of the potentially serious consequences of a contempt of Court.
3. In my view everyone involved in this case should now say nothing about it until further notice. We must do as the Judge has indicated, even if others do not.
4. In the long run I think we must specifically seek Counsel's opinion on what we can and cannot say in public and provided you agree I will set this process in hand.

5. Mr Nilsson has asked me to ask Mr Whitbread to ensure that this minute is read out at the next meeting of the CSM.

GRO-C

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