

File 10

Ref: Pick1110

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From: Dr A Rejman MEDISD
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NOTE ON SOME ASPECTS OF THE MEETING OF UK HAEMOPHILIA CENTRE DIRECTORS HELD ON 9 OCTOBER 1989, OXFORD

1. A solicitor from Oxford Region gave an update on the HIV haemophilia litigation.
2. The lead firm of solicitors is to be Davis, Arne and Cooper who will be working with other firms from the Regions. In addition to her firm from Oxford there were Beechcroft Stanley, Tickles, Capsticks, Oxley and Coward from Sheffield, Wilkinson-Maughan from Newcastle and Bevan-Ashford from the West Country.
3. Individual claims would have to be dealt with by individual Region's lawyers.
4. The silk chosen for the RHA's was David Latham.
5. The following experts had been approached, Dr Pinching, Professor Adler, Dr Mortimer and Dr Ludlam.
6. A questionnaire had been prepared by Tickles which was to be sent to all Reference Centre Directors. Capsticks had sent out a questionnaire already to many of the Centre Directors. This was not sufficiently detailed, hence the new one.
7. Apparently there had been some contact with the medical defence organisations with some co-operation, although they were presently in the wings. It was agreed that they should receive a copy of the questionnaire.
8. Dr Aronstam (the Wessex Director) said that he had only given factual information to the litigants and that he was not involved in the case. Another expert witness for the litigants was thought to be Dr David Dane (retired Virologist from the Middlesex Hospital).
11. ^{*} Dr Jones, off the record, in private suggested to me that one possible way out of the difficulty would be the setting up of a Royal Commission to investigate the problem of HIV and haemophilia (along the line of the Pearson Enquiry) which would remove some of the pressure and meanwhile increase the Macfarlane Trust and encourage more liberal use of the money.

GRO-C

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* Dr Jones is Haemophilia Centre Director for Newcastle, a trustee of the Macfarlane Trust and one of the Medical Advisory Panel to the Haemophilia Society.

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