

Lord Hunt

From: Mike McGovern

Date: 22 November 1999

Cc
Mark Ferrero
Hester McLain
Rachel Dickson
Pat Troop
David Hewlett
Frances Rotblat
Sue Ryan
Anita James
Charles Lister
Gwen Skinner
Louis Reunier
Marsali Caig
Mike Palmer -Scotland

POH(6)1697/1201: Graham Ross, Ross & Co Solicitors

Graham Ross has faxed a long letter to Secretary of State outlining the Government's culpability in the case of people with haemophilia infected with hepatitis C virus through NHS treatment. The letter refers to:

Ross and Co's involvement in HIV litigation,
their more recent work for patients infected with hepatitis C,
failure of BPL in the 1970s due to lack of central support
an EDM favouring hepatitis C compensation signed by SoS in 1995,
information from the US showing that heat treatment of blood products could
have been made available in the 1970s and
the investigation under way by Scottish Ministers.

2. He makes a strident case for compensation to paid because of the Department's 'significant level of culpability in this shameful history of the UK's blood industry and plaintive plea for a personal reply from the Secretary of State so as not add to his 'extensive collection' of stock letters.

3. I attach a draft that expresses sympathy for the plight of this unfortunate group of patients, repeats the Government's policy not to provide compensation, and rejects a claim of negligence on the part of the NHS. The draft does not pick up his tentative request for a meeting to discuss the issues. It has been cleared in confidence with relevant policy divisions including SOL, MCA, the National Blood Authority and BPL as well as the Scottish Executive.

Dr Mike McGovern
Health

Services

Directorate