

Please reply to:
Christopher Wallworth
c/o Bird Franklin

GRO-C

Rt Hon John Patten, MP
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

Your Ref:
Our Ref: CMW.M1016

16 June 1994

Dear Mr Patten

Nicholas Medley

We are writing to you as, respectively, the executor, lifelong friend, and aunt and uncle of your constituent Nicholas Medley who died on 14 May. Nicholas lived at **GRO-C** **GRO-C** you may recall your extensive correspondence with him during 1986 - 1988.

Nicholas was a haemophiliac who became infected with HIV in 1985 as a result of being given infected Factor VIII imported from the USA. When the court case brought by those haemophiliacs who were affected was settled in 1990 Nicholas very reluctantly accepted what he regarded as the derisory sum of £23,500 for a life of uncertainty and worry.

Nicholas began to develop full AIDS late last year, and has now died of the disease after years of mental and physical anguish.

The final insult is that the inheritance tax payable on his estate is in excess of £30,000, which means that the government will recoup the money it paid him with a more than commercial rate of interest for the short period for which Nicholas had the use of it.

At the same time we read in the papers that the government is paying out sums of £300,000 and more to women who were asked to resign from the armed services (in accordance with the terms of employment which they accepted when they joined) because they became pregnant. Nicholas was incensed when he heard about the first of these cases last year.

Why did you in government not defend the claims made by these ex-servicewomen with the same vigour and determination with which you resisted making a proper and adequate settlement with the victims of the haemophilia / HIV tragedy?

Does the government believe that the inconvenience to a woman caused by a child which she wanted and chose to have is more than twelve times greater than the torments suffered by those who have been killed, and those affected who have not yet died, by being given a disease which they did not want?

Do you think that this is morally right?

Yes, this is an emotive letter, because we four and many others who have known and loved Nicholas are very angry not only about his illness but also about the way your colleagues in government refused to make a generous and timely settlement with all affected haemophiliacs.

What we now ask for is a clause in the next Finance Bill to allow the estates of haemophiliacs who received compensation to deduct from any inheritance tax payable an amount equal to the compensation received. This must be a pound for pound deduction from the tax, not a reduction in the taxable estate, so that there is no recovery by the government of the compensation paid. The numbers affected will be small - those haemophiliacs who have left a widow will not suffer tax and many of the rest will leave estates below the inheritance tax threshold.

As a practising Christian, you might like to meditate on Matthew 27:6 in considering our request.

Yours sincerely

GRO-C

Christopher Wallworth
Executor

Philip Davies

GRO-C

Joy Brockington

GRO-C

Frederic Brockington

GRO-C