

GRO-A

2nd of February 2006.

Ref no GRO-A

Dear Mr. Foster,

As you recall i wrote to you on the 30th of November 2005. Expressing my wish to represent myself at any future appeal hearing, you declined me this opportunity in what i consider to be my basic human right, to speak up for myself. You tell me that in your considered opinion my appeal will be paper based, and that personal representation on my part, will not figure in the scheme. Mr. Foster i am asking, why will you not let me represent myself? And yet if i could financially afford the cost of legal representation, you will allow me to have a solicitor at the appeal. I find this very hard to understand.

My MP. Peter Kilfoyle has been in contact with the fund, and has recieved a reply off Mr. Nicholas Fish, who tells him that my application to the fund was declined on the grounds that my medical records have been destroyed. Could you please tell me **why** and for what **reason** they were destroyed?

This is the part which hurts me Mr. foster, you wrote to me on the 17th of August 2005. telling me that my application had been declined due to the fact that my doctor could not confirm that records exist stating that i had recieved a blood transfusion or a blood product whilst i was a patient in Walton Hospital in 1981. Do you think it would have been better on your part, as an Administrator, that you could have been a bit more truthful with me, and simply said that my records had been destroyed? It would have saved me the time and effort of having to trace these destroyed records. However, i did manage to finally track my record back to the Blood Bank Manager at Aintree Hospital trust, only to be told that no record of blood transfusions or Blood Products exist from the time i was in Walton Hospital, as nothing was computerised in 1981 and that they only started keeping records starting in 1995. I find it strange that medical records of blood transfusions and blood products have been destroyed, when the blood bank Manager has told me that these records never existed?

I also find it strange to discover on my medical record that have escaped being destroyed, that a Doctor GRO-A name appears on my file as being my family Doctor in 1981. As i have written to you in the past, and you have not had the courtesy to reply to me, i did not join this Doctors practice until around the year 2000.

I approached Walton Records department in 2000, before this scheme came out, i told the record dept that i would like to see my file from when i was a patient of theirs in 1981, i told them that i was not after claiming any compensation off them, i just wanted to know what caused me to have contracted Hepatitis C. And would it be possible for me to see what procedures i underwent whilst i was being trated there. They refused me this request, and insisted that i should follow protocol, by letting my own Doctor

write to them. I therefore asked Doctor GRO-A to contact the Hospital which he did, but never recieved any reply off them. And yet his name appears on my medical file from 1981.

I contacted your office by phone on the 22nd of January 2005. to ask to speak to some one who heads the department. The person who answered the phone told me to contact the Blood Product Team at Skipton House, which is a department of the National Health. He never told me the name of the person who i should write too, so i addressed it to the Blood Product team, Dept of Health, Skipton house, 80. Londondan road, Elephant and castle, london SE1 6LH. I wrote this letter on the 22nd of January 2005. To date i have not had a reply off this team. I wrote to them voicing my concerns, asking them to look again at their Guidelines, and telling them that people like me with a terminal illness, are being penalised because they can not show proof of having had a blood transfusion or a blood product, mainly because these records were never kept, infact they never existed. And from what your Mr. Fish, another administrator on your scheme, has told my MP. these records have been destroyed.

Looking back to when the Hepatitis C. ex-gratia payment scheme was first announced. on Friday 23rd of January 2004. were the then Health Secretary John Reid, announced in a big publicity fanfare, that people with Hep C. who have been infected from NHS blood or blood products will be eligible to recieve ex gratia payments from the department of health. Mr.Foster i have scrutinised every inch of that publication, and cannot find out what criteria there is for people in my position. I am being told by a Blood Bank Manager that the proof i need was never kept, and i know i am repeating myself, but your Mr. fish, has said that my proof has been destroyed.

You write too me and tell me that my fate now lies in the hands of people made up of a public appointed board, and will be chaired by a QC. and that my appeal will be many months away. I am not trying to come across to you has being disrespectful. But how can a board of people who do not know what it feels like to have a short life expectancy, who have too live with the ravages that this disease causes, who cannot get any life insurance too protect his family. Who has tried to gain employment but been refused, by declaring on application work forms that i am Hep C. Positive. Will this board know how i have tried with every nerve in my being, too get the proof that your guidelines ask for? I have tried everything i can possibly do to prove to you and your members on the scheme board that i am not a drug user, i have never or would never have inflicted this on myself, and yet i feel tainted by your boards refusal. What more do i have to do too convince you that i am an eligible patient.

Yours Sincerely,

GRO-A