

GRO-A

22nd of January 2006.

Dear team, I apologise for not knowing who to write too, i applied to the Skipton fund for your address unfortunately they did not have the name of the person i should contact, and told me to write to the blood product team, based at Skipton house.

I am a fifty year old male and i have hepatitis C. I had a liver transplant at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham in May 2001. My Consultant tells me that the virus is still active. In January 2005 i was informed by Birmingham Hospital to apply to the trust fund. On the 16th of August 2005 the Trust recieved my application and on the 17th of august 2005. they declined it.

They tell me that they declined my application due to the fact that no definate source of infection can be confirmed from procedures i underwent as a result of a stabbing wound in 1981. I was treated at Walton Hospital were i was kept in for one week. The fund tell me, that it is their requirement that the completing medical practitioner, can confirm that records exist confirming that i had a blood transfusion or a blood product at that time. I see from my medical file that i had 2 pints of blood crossmatched with my own and had ivi inserted as a result of the stab wound.

I have never abused myself with drugs i am not a junkie, there is nothing in my medical file to indicate that i relied upon or abused drugs. I was a productive member of society before this disease struck, and yet i was still turned down by this fund. Apparently under your Guidelines i felt the burden of proof was on me, to show you, that i had not inflicted this on myself. I find it imossible to do this, infact, what i have found totally contradicts the scheme guidelines.

I am told by the Blood Bank Manager at Aintree Hospital that no records exist, they were not computerised in 1981 and that they only started keeping records 11 years ago. So how can i, or my Medical Practitioner confirm to the scheme, under their guidelines, that i had a transfusion or a blood product in 1981 when i am now being told that these records never existed in the first place?

I have written to the skipton fund asking if i could represent myself, at any future appeal hearing as i cannot afford the cost of legal representation. they have declined me this human right. Mr. Keith Foster the Scheme Administrator has written back to me saying: " That in his considered oppinion the review of applications will be paper based and personal representation will not figure in the scheme". (Talk about kicking people when they are down !)

Looking back too when this scheme first started, the then Health Secretary, Mr. John Reid said: " I felt it was important that English Hepatitis C. patients should recieve these payments on compassionate grounds, and that we have ensured throughout our negotiations that the scheme would be easily

accessible, for eligible patients. It is important that people making a claim are not going to be bogged down with bureaucracy, i feel as if i am drowning in it, rather than being bogged down.

Members of the team i feel that your Scheme Guidelines should be looked at in cases like mine. I feel people like me with a terminal illness are being penalised, because they can not show proof of having had a blood product, mainly because these records were never kept, in fact they never existed.

I am sending you letters that may help the team if you require other information.

I hope that the team can reply to my query, of were people like me stand, from the Department of Healths point of view.

Yours sincerely.

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