

012/04/2000

Carol Grayson
Haemophilia Action UK

GRO-C

Dear Mr Blair,

I enclose a copy of a letter to Mr Milburn. I ask that you read this letter and study the enclosed photograph of a gentleman who was part of a prison plasma program. It is taken hours from death, he died swollen and bleeding from every orifice as he progressed into liver failure. This is a death now becoming common in the haemophilia community.

This man a known drug user infected with hepatitis B and C, was allowed to donate plasma for several years. His situation was not uncommon and was standard practice for many years. Mr Blair, as an intelligent man it does not take much brainpower to see how easily haemophiliacs were contaminated with viruses such as HIV and hepatitis C when donors such as this were sourced for their blood. It is an outrage!

I know that the Government is fully aware that plasma was regularly sourced from high risk areas other than prisons, these included "border" clinics in third world countries, blood from the slums of Africa and plasma from skid-row America. Is it surprising that 99% of haemophiliacs infected with HIV also have hepatitis C? Not only were haemophiliacs infected but donors were exploited by the international pharmaceutical companies who profited greatly from the misery of others. Need I say more! I ask for a response from yourself on the letter to Alan Milburn and reiterate our request for the following:-

1. Safe synthetic treatment for ALL haemophiliacs.
2. A full and open public inquiry.
3. Recompense for infection with hepatitis C on a parity with Southern Ireland.

It is time that the Government admitted that serious mistakes were made. Just be honest and say that you are sorry as the Japanese and other Governments have done. Do we really have to go down the line of a criminal investigation or a pre-election trial by media or as a decent human being do you have the courage to say that the Government got it wrong.

I look forward to your reply

Yours sincerely

GRO-C

Carol Grayson, on behalf of all members of Haemophilia

Action UK