



## Department of Haematology

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9 April 1991

Mr Adrian Whittington  
Cartwright & Lewis  
Solicitors  
3rd Floor, 100 Hagley Road  
Edgbaston  
Birmingham B16 8LT.

Dear Mr Whittington

RE: HIV Haemophilia Litigation

Thank you for your letter. I enclose a photocopy of my letter to the Regional Director of the Transfusion Centre, Dr Ala, dated 2 March 1984 in which I outlined the reasons for seeking continuity in Factor VIII supply. The reason for this was that the supplies of NHS material had been very limited and both myself and my colleague were of the opinion that it was better to make a gradual change to NHS products that could be sustained rather than a sudden switch in times of glut and then a sudden transfer back of all patients to commercial material. This was the sort of thing that had been happening at that time.

My letter clearly states that there had been a meeting of the Haemophilia Centre Directors in which it was considered advisable that patients remain on the Factor VIII product they had been regularly using. Therefore it did not appear unreasonable at that time to propose that patients who had been using Armour for several years should continue to do so. There was never at any time sufficient NHS Factor VIII available to treat all patients and the decision of Dr Hill and myself was that patients should receive a regular supply of one or other product and not a mixture of both. It is my opinion that those Centres which did not adhere to such a practice have had a higher proportion of HIV infected patients than has been the case in Birmingham.

I think I make it clear in paragraph 3 that we should make a move towards NHS material but I do make the point in paragraph 2 that becoming totally dependent on NHS material would be unwise because supplies had been erratic in the past.

I hope this clarifies the point and it would probably be worth your while seeking back both in the Regional Haemophilia Centre Directors minutes and also the National group for confirmation of this view.

With regard to your comment about a specific patient and the litigation and supplies of NHS material, I will respond to this when I have had the opportunity to peruse the patient's notes in detail.

Yours sincerely

GRO-C

Ian M Franklin  
Consultant Haematologist.