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Mr Blake SOLB

From: Dr A Rejman HC(M)1

Date: 7 March 1995

Copy: Dr Graham
Mr Scofield
Mr Kelly

HIV HAEMOPHILIA LITIGATION - MILES INC IRELAND/US

1. I enclose a letter and papers from Dr Colvin, Chairman of the United Kingdom Haemophilia Centre Directors Organisation. The papers concerned are minutes of the UK Haemophilia Centre Directors and their AIDS group.
2. As the letter from Wilkinson Maughan states, these are professional meetings where individuals give their views on what they presume to be a confidential basis. Most of these papers were made available in the UK Haemophilia HIV litigation, but on the condition that they were not made public and would be returned when the litigation finished.
3. The Head of the main Irish Haemophilia Centre has attended many of these meetings as an observer, but is not a fully member of the group. Although occasionally there might be discussion about the Irish situation, this would be the exception.
4. Miles Inc was a defendant in the UK HIV litigation at the beginning, but the plaintiffs withdrew writs against the various commercial companies at an early stage, presumably because they felt that the commercial companies were likely to defend their corner much more vigorously than the Department of Health and the Health Authorities.
5. I would be grateful for advice on how to reply to the letter. Among the papers will be a significant amount of discussion regarding NANB (hepatitis C) which we might not wish to have in the public domain at the present time or in the near future.
6. I understand Dr Colvin's anxiety may well be because of the Freedom of Information Act in the US which might make all these papers public.

7. Incidentally, one of the UK Haemophilia Directors, Dr Savidge at St Thomas', is believed to have advised the plaintiffs in Ireland at the time of our own UK haemophilia/HIV litigation. I am not sure whether he is still involved in this, and I presume it would not be appropriate for me to ask him.

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