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The Rt. Hon. William Waldegrave, Esq.,
M.P.,
Secretary of State for Health,
House of Commons,
LONDON.

Your Ref.

Our Ref. BGD/AD/JACK003

Date 18.12.90 Reply To Edinburgh
(Dispatched 21.12.90)

Dear Minister,

HIV infection/AIDS - whole blood transfusion

I act for a number of people passed to me by the Law Society of Scotland and from medical specialists and my task is to attempt to obtain compensation for them as a result of their having developed AIDS as a result of whole blood transfusions which were HIV infected.

I am sure that you will be aware of the correspondence and submissions to your predecessor in office and questions asked in Parliament by a number of Members irrespective of political affiliation.

I have a copy of the detailed response made by your predecessor to those questions but I still have not had a rational or adequate explanation of how the situation of people such as my clients can be distinguished from that of the unfortunate haemophiliacs who are also sadly afflicted.

I need hardly rehearse in detail the factual circumstances in which people such as my clients became infected but clearly, they were completely dependant on the Health Service for treatment for other conditions and became infected through blood transfusions. Clearly I am proceeding with legal action as expeditiously as possible, that is against the Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service but also against the Government for failure to take adequate steps at an early stage. Obviously such legal action, even if it can be relevantly and competently proceeded with (at public expense namely via the Scottish Legal Aid Board) will take a considerable number of years and the prospects of success are impossible to comment on.

The only adequate and reasonable solution is a settlement such as has been offered to the haemophiliacs who are unfortunately also infected. The numbers of people infected through whole blood transfusions is impossible to predict but in my experience in Scotland despite efforts to ask them to come forward, we have knowledge at present of very few. Those I know of are in single figures. Even if a settlement, however, were to provoke many more claims/....



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claims, surely it is only decent and honourable to meet those claims. Equally, from any objective point of view it must be more sensible rather than expend money on lawyers such as me through the Legal Aid Fund to compensate the unfortunate victims, especially bearing in mind that a number of them are very young people. Indeed one of my clients is a five year old boy and another an eighteen year old girl.

I am sure you are at this time being besieged by other lawyers such as me and by members of Parliament to whom I have copied this letter. I have also copied the letter to the Prime Minister himself because of the vital and desperate nature of the situation faced by my clients.

I would be very much obliged for your interest and attention to the matter.

Yours faithfully,

GRO-C

Brian G. Donald

c.c. The Prime Minister, Robin Cook, Esq., M.P., Allan Stewart, Esq., M.P.

CHRISTMAS CLOSURE

Monday 24th December, 1990

Tuesday 25th December, 1990

Wednesday 26th December, 1990

NEW YEAR

Tuesday 1st January, 1991

Wednesday 2nd January, 1991