

CHAMBERS

*Ps/Mr Tolson
Ps/USAs
Ps/STHD
Ps/CE*

SOLICITOR

Mr TUCKER

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SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE

*for immediate
advice please*



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The Rt Hon Ian Lang, M.P.
Secretary of State for Scotland
New St Andrew's House
EDINBURGH

Our ref: AJT/ES H1314

12th
1990

December

Dear Secretary of State

SCOTTISH HAEMOPHYLIA/HIV LITIGATION GROUP

I am the Chairman of the Scottish Haemophilia/HIV Litigation Group, which is an Association of Scottish Firms of Solicitors who represent the interests of Haemophiliacs who have contracted the HIV virus or Aids through contaminated blood products. You will be aware that proceedings have been raised in the Court of Session in Edinburgh in a number of cases and a number of other cases are in the course of preparation for litigation.

and members of my Group, were dismayed to learn from press and dia reports last evening of the agreement by the Government to pay a further £42,000,000 to Haemophiliacs who have contracted HIV or Aids. Although any additional payments to Haemophiliacs are to be welcomed, I am alarmed by the report that the additional payments arise from Her Majesty's Government accepting an offer from 'the lawyers representing the HIV/Haemophilic plaintiffs who are suing the Government for negligence'. Not only were the Scottish lawyers excluded from the discussions with the Government, they were not even advised that these discussions were taking place. You will appreciate that there are clear and identifiable differences between the litigation in Scotland and the litigation in England, not least that you are responsible for the Health Service in Scotland, whereas the Secretary of State for Health is responsible in England.

One assumes that the offer made by the Government is to include Haemophiliacs throughout/...

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throughout the United Kingdom, but I have been unable to find confirmation of the position in the reports to date. In this morning's Glasgow Herald, you are reported as saying that talks would be held with those affected in Scotland and that you hoped that the offer would be accepted. Until we know that the offer includes Scottish Haemophiliacs and until we know the content of the offer, we are not even able to take the first steps towards advising our clients regarding acceptance or otherwise.

You will appreciate that our own clients will be extremely anxious to know their position without any delay and I should be extremely grateful to receive your response in the course of today.

Yours sincerely

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A J TYLER

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