

Our Ref: PG/jr

Mrs. K. Millard

GRO-C

Northampton

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(Date dictated: 14th April 2011)

Dear Mrs. Millard

18 April 2011

I thought it would be helpful for me to write to you following our meeting at the Haemophilia Centre on April 14th. You came to see me, accompanied by your late husband's mother, to discuss whether you would be eligible to seek compensation from the Skipton Fund. Also present during our discussions was Mrs. Liz Short, Clinical Nurse Specialist.

Once again, I would like to extend my condolences to you and the whole family following the death of Russell back in 1990. I started work here in April 1991 and so never knew Russell myself although obviously I know other members of the family. I fully recognise that the pain of your bereavement does not lessen with time and indeed your recent involvement with the Skipton Fund has perhaps re-opened old wounds.

On review of Russell's notes, it is absolutely clear that he died from HIV-related complications including infections of the chest and brain. You have received compensation from the separate Macfarlane Trust. I encouraged you to consider approaching that organisation again for financial support as my understanding is that they still have plenty of money left and perhaps the UK Haemophilia Society in London could guide you on what support you might seek. I reiterate that I would be very happy to support any application that you might make to the Macfarlane Trust.

By contrast, I regret to confirm that it is my view that you are not eligible for compensation from the Skipton Fund. There is no doubt that Russell was exposed at some stage to hepatitis C as the antibody test was positive on several occasions. However, this result alone does not indicate active infection and a crucial test result required for the Skipton form is evidence of ongoing viral infection with a positive RNA (sometimes known as PCR) test. In the case of Russell, this test was clearly negative on a sample tested in 1992. I recognise that this sample was tested after your husband's death and I explained to you that it was common practice at the time to store samples in a freezer at -70° to do future testing.

I hope that our meeting and this letter have helped to clarify issues in your mind. However, please do not hesitate to contact me (preferably by letter or email rather than by phone) if you would like any further information or clarification on any points.

Yours sincerely

Dr. P.L.F. Giangrande
Consultant Haematologist