

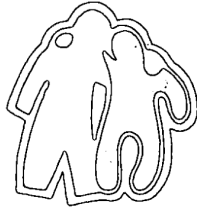
Witness Name: Katherine Victoria Burt

Statement No.: WITN6392268

Exhibits: WITN6392269 – WITN6392280

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

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The
Haemophilia
Society

HAEMOFACT

**AIDS AND RECOMPENSE FOR
PEOPLE WITH HAEMOPHILIA**

RELEASE No. 14

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123 Westminster Bridge Road London SE1 7HR

AIDS and Recompense for People with Haemophilia

As Society members will know from our earlier publications, we believe strongly that people with haemophilia who are HIV antibody positive deserve special consideration by the Government on account of their antibody status. We will be ready to launch our campaign for recompense when the new session of Parliament begins after the General Election. The House of Commons Social Services Committee Report on PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH AIDS states that the question of recompense deserves careful consideration.

As a result of our detailed investigations into the most appropriate form of recompense, it has become clear that our best chance of success lies in claiming a special weekly allowance.

Help from Social Security

The Department of Health and Social Security has supplied us with copies of the enclosed leaflets for circulation to all members. We apologise if the leaflets are not strictly relevant to your own circumstances, but hope that you will accept that they do have relevance to a substantial number of our members.

We must also stress, from the outset, that while some of the benefits referred to in these leaflets are means-tested (ie only payable after considering your income and savings) **WE BELIEVE THAT PEOPLE WITH HAEMOPHILIA SHOULD BE ENTITLED TO SPECIAL CONSIDERATION, APART FROM THE PRESENT BENEFITS, ON A NON-MEANS TESTED BASIS.**

There will be many members who are already entitled to a number of benefits on account of haemophilia alone: if you feel that you could now be entitled, for the first time, **DO CLAIM!**

The Benefits

In the leaflet (FB2) **WHICH BENEFIT?** you will find details of *all* Social Security Benefits and mention of *all* the leaflets that are available. The leaflet outlines, in brief detail, the benefits which can be paid to people because of unemployment or sickness and those which can be paid to people with disabilities. It also covers supplementary benefit, which can be paid to people on low incomes, and other benefits – eg Maternity Allowance, help for women expecting babies, Child Benefits, One Parent Benefit, etc. At the end of the booklet there is a helpful section on National Health Service benefits – eg glasses, prescription season tickets, fares to hospital, etc. Most helpful of all is (page 42), a table showing you where to apply for assistance, as well as (page 43) a useful index and a leaflet order form. The presentation is bright and easy to read and understand!

The other leaflet (FB28) SICK OR DISABLED? goes into much greater detail about the following benefits:—

Statutory Sick Pay	Attendance Allowance
Sickness Benefit	Invalid Care Allowance
Invalidity Benefit	Help with heating costs
Severe Disablement Allowance	Help with rent and rates
Mobility Allowance	Help with NHS prescription charges

as well as giving advice on where to go for help, and how to get copies of the leaflets mentioned in the text.

What might apply to you?

IF YOUR EMPLOYMENT IS UNDER THREAT you should familiarise yourself with the sections on UNEMPLOYMENT and SUPPLEMENTARY benefits. You should also contact the Society if you feel that there are health-related reasons for losing your job – we can certainly give you an indication about the need for further advice and the best place to go for that!

IF YOU NEED MORE HELP THAN PREVIOUSLY: If you do not already qualify for ATTENDANCE ALLOWANCE, you may now. As a general rule, we would argue that anyone who is developing HIV infections should apply for the Attendance Allowance.

INVALID CARE ALLOWANCE may then be payable to people who look after the person who is in receipt of Attendance Allowance.

IF YOU ARE OFF SICK you may qualify for STATUTORY SICK PAY or SICKNESS BENEFIT. If you are in receipt of either benefit for *six months* you can claim INVALIDITY BENEFIT. You may be able to get SEVERE DISABLEMENT ALLOWANCE if you have not paid enough national insurance contributions for sickness benefit or invalidity benefit.

If you have applied for MOBILITY ALLOWANCE in the past and been refused, and if your condition has deteriorated, you should re-apply NOW! You should also enlist the support of the Haemophilia Society with your new application!

You may qualify for SUPPLEMENTARY BENEFIT, if you have a low income and you are not in full-time work.

If you are having to attend hospital, check up on HELP WITH FARES TO HOSPITAL – help may also be available for the fares of anyone who *has* to travel with you. A close relative travelling to visit you in hospital may also qualify for help with fares, etc – ask at the hospital or Social Security Office – and use the FREEPHONE number (0800 666555) if you want to check it out anonymously!

HOUSING BENEFIT and FAMILY INCOME SUPPLEMENT may be payable if you have a low income.

FREE MILK and VITAMINS may also be available to those on low incomes.

The advantage of PRESCRIPTION SEASON TICKETS should be borne in mind – if you need more than 5 items in 4 months (or 15 items in 12 months) you will save money!

PLEASE READ THE LEAFLETS CAREFULLY. Queries can be raised with the Society or on the Freephone DHSS enquiry line – 0800-666555.

HÆMOFACT is a leaflet series produced by the Haemophilia Society. It is issued from time to time on topics of interest and concern to people with haemophilia.

For further details of Society membership please write to us at 123 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7HR.
