

Cgo K Alan Milburn.

DEPT OF HEALTH
RECEIVED

16/05/2000.

22 MAY 2000

GRO-A

Newcastle Upon Tyne.

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Diseases-Hepatitis
Compensation
for info only.
Letters crossed
in post.

17456

CORRESPONDENCE
PRIVATE OFFICE

(R)

Re- Haemophiliacs Infected With Hepatitis C Through NHS Blood Products.

Dear Mr Blair,

I am very disappointed that I have not received a reply, or even an acknowledgement to my letter to Alan Milburn dated 9th April 2000. (I attach the stated letter for you to read again.) I would like some answers to the questions raised in that letter please.

TO 2000/14859 & 14366
& 13859
replied to
on 18/05/2000.

Well I won't beat about the bush, let's talk about the type of places the major pharmaceutical companies bought their blood from, let's talk about Cummins situated in Grady, Arkansas and the plasma centre. If you make a transatlantic call, a certain former Governor of Arkansas will I'm sure be able to give you all the details you want on the prison plasma program. Write to John Byus, the Medical Administrator who knows all about the hepatitis status of the some of the prisoners contributing to the plasma program.

You may also wish to look at the history of Alpha Therapeutics, in particular Green Cross, or where Cutter bought its plasma. Check out Armour, Baxter and Bayer, defendants in American law suits brought by infected victims. Then check out this country's existing plasma purchase records.

I wonder if Government expected all HIV infected haemophiliacs to be dead before hepatitis C reared its ugly head. Haemophiliacs now have a choice of which virus they die from. Do you really expect surviving haemophiliacs and their families to remain silent on this issue. Would you remain silent if your wife was infected with HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C through contaminated NHS blood. Pregnant wives of haemophiliacs have been infected, some forced to abort their babies for fear of passing on these infections. We are not talking about infection through some unavoidable act of fate, but calculated greed on the part of individuals and giant pharmaceutical companies putting profit before human safety. Where was this country's quality control for imported plasma, as you well know there wasn't any!

It seems to me that this Government has a choice, you can save face by announcing a public inquiry yourselves, (a good will gesture pre-election.) and offering a hepatitis C compensation package as Southern Ireland has had the sense to do or haemophiliacs can force the same things through the courts, (Europe's looking good.)

The press here are becoming very interested in the ongoing criminal investigation into the blood in (Canada) and the public inquiry about to start in Ireland. We also have the evidence from the Italian inquiry. The press are also interested that this country can no longer use its own plasma because of the "theoretical" risk of CJD. ("The greed with the feed" story, messing up the food chain and putting humans at risk once again.)

Do you want this Government to be reported in the press as caring about contaminated blood recipients or covering up a huge international blood scandal? The choice is yours!

At present my partner and other haemophiliacs are refusing human plasma treatment and fighting for Recombinant, a synthetic product which is now being prescribed to all haemophiliacs in Wales and I am informed Scotland also. To go without treatment means they are in pain and at risk of serious damage when they bleed now. They are taking this stance on two points, the obvious being the concern over further viruses which may be in the human plasma and secondly that the blood companies have learnt nothing in the last 25 years. Despite calls for labelling of the place and country of origin of the plasma this has not happened and for all we know the sick and poor of the world may still be exploited for their life blood. How do haemophiliacs know that there is not a present day version of Cummins? There are no guarantees on the bottles of plasma, no justice when people are contaminated.

I end this letter with the following quote.

"To be silent in the face of injustice is to be an accomplice to evil. I will not be silent."

I await your reply.

Yours sincerely

GRO-A

GRO-A

(On behalf of the 2/2 Campaign, A

Second Campaign For A Second Injustice.)

Cc Mr Alan Milburn.