

Your Ref: U10098  
Ref: PJ/LM

5th October, 1983

IN CONFIDENCE

The Director,  
The Press Council,  
1 Salisbury Square,  
LONDON.  
EC4Y 8AE

Dear Sir,

Re: The Mail on Sunday, 2nd October, 1983

Earlier this year I complained to the Press Council about the Mail's article on "Hospitals using Killer Blood" which was published on 1st May, 1983. Since then Mr. Woodhouse and I have had considerable correspondence terminating at the end of September because we were getting nowhere. The new article entitled "The Scandal of GRO-A Death" repeats most of the misconceptions used in May. Once again there is a misleading headline "Victim of AIDS - because a blood donor was infected". In addition, Susan Douglas uses her lack of knowledge in an attempt to mount a campaign against the importation of blood, which is vital for the treatment of haemophiliacs.

At this time there is no proof that this particular death was connected with the importation of blood from America and there is no proof that the use of other sources of blood would reduce risk. As Haemophilia Centre Directors we are aware of the case Susan Douglas quoted, the full details of which will be published in a reputable medical journal in due course. Because of this I cannot comment on them here, nor can I comment on them to the Mail on Sunday. All I can say is that they show that Susan Douglas and her editors are continuing to mount a campaign based on conjecture and that this campaign is causing a great deal of suffering amongst haemophilic patients and their families.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

PETER JONES, MD, FRCP, DCH  
Director

cc. Mr. D. G. Watters