

16 June 2009

Secretary of State for Health
Rt Hon A Burnham
Department of Health
Richmond house
79 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2NS

GRO-C

For the personal attention of Secretary of State for Health Rt Hon Andy Burnham

Dear Mr Burnham

I have a question which I would request you personally answer regarding the issue surrounding Haemophiliacs who have contracted Hepatitis C and HIV through contaminated NHS blood.

Lord Winston describes it as the "worst treatment disaster in the history of the NHS" yet the UK government ignores their moral duty in following Lord Archer's recommendations.

My wife contracted Hepatitis B & C through her NHS treatment. She has now developed cirrhosis of the liver due to chronic long term infection. She is now at a stage where she struggles to maintain any kind of a normal life, and that means in the very near future I, as her husband will have to give up my professional career to care for her and our young daughter, as I have no independent means of paying for our day to day needs let alone full time nursing care. Will the government pay off our mortgage so that we at least maintain a roof over our heads or does the government expect us to live on the street?

Over 2000 Haemophiliacs have died through their NHS treatments a further 200 have died during Lord Archer of Sandwell's public inquiry. All of these deaths could and should have been avoided! If you would care to take the time to read the concluding chapter of Lord Archer of Sandwell's report, you will find the overwhelming conclusion was that commercial interests were put ahead of patient's safety. This is biological murder!

The whole of the Haemophiliac community are now suffering a fourth wave of NHS treatment disasters, namely Hepatitis B, C, HIV and now nvCJD. My wife has personally been exposed 6 times to nvCJD having received NHS blood products donated by people who have gone on to die from nvCJD.

Lord Archer's inquiry has made recommendations that would allow those victims who remain alive, and widows of the deceased to remove the financial hardship they have been battling with for many years, allowing them dignity and the ability to get on with, what is left of their lives. It is for these reasons that Lord Archer recommended compensation on a parity with Erie as a starting point.

It is nearly 40 years since this disaster happened and the Haemophiliacs have suffered because profit was put before safety. I therefore appeal to the UK government on behalf of my wife and the Haemophiliac community to take the right moral action and follow Lord Archer's recommendations. May I remind you that under

the European court of human rights article two the "Right to life" that this applies not only to all British citizens but in particular the Haemophiliac community because of their medical vulnerability?

They had a right to life which has been stolen from them through no fault of their own!

Yours sincerely

Stephen Wintle

Cc Prime Minister Gordon Brown
Shadow Secretary of State for Health Rt Hon Andrew Lansley MP
Rt Hon David Cameron MP
Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP