

Dr J S Metters DCMO

Dr Rejman CA OPU2

Mr Pudlo CA OPU2

From: Ruth McEwen
SOLB4

Date: 15 July 1996

cc: The Solicitor
Mr Milledge SOLC2

RE: HEPATITIS C

1. I have today been served with another Writ brought by a haemophiliac. The solicitors are again J Keith Park & Co. We are the Second Defendants in the case; the First Defendants being the Manchester Health Authority. I anticipate that this is another protective Writ, served so that the time limit of 3 years in relation to any personal injury action does not expire.

2. As regards the general progress of the Hepatitis C litigation, the main solicitors who have been sending us letters before action and issuing these Writs, J Keith Park & Co, have indicated to me that a second firm of solicitors, Deas Mallen Souter are conducting an investigation into Hepatitis C under a Legal Aid Certificate. It seems that DMS investigation will culminate in Michael Brooke QC providing an opinion on Hepatitis C litigation. I understand that the opinion will be concerned with both blood transfusions and blood products (haemophiliacs). J Keith Park have indicated to me that in the event that the opinion is unfavourable they will inform the Legal Aid Board and no doubt their Legal Aid Certificates will be withdrawn.

3. I have spoken to DMS who have confirmed the investigation is indeed being conducted and will cover both blood products and blood transfusions. They have obtained a number of expert medical reports and are now awaiting Counsel's opinion. The earliest date that they anticipate receiving this opinion is August. It therefore seems that in late August or early September we will know whether group action is to be brought against the Department. I anticipate that if the opinion is unfavourable to potential Plaintiffs the proceedings against the Department will largely be discontinued. If however, the opinion is favourable to Plaintiffs, I fear that we can expect a flood of writs from both solicitors.

4. I will of course be in touch as soon as I am informed of the result of the investigation.

RUTH MCEWEN
SOLB4

ROOM 512A
NEW COURT

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