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A haemophiliac who contracted HIV and hepatitis C from contaminated NHS blood has gone to the High Court seeking a judicial review of the Government's decision over compensation.

Andrew March, 36, wants the court to overturn a decision by the health secretary in May 2009 not to act on recommendations made by the Archer Report on blood supplies that were not cleaned properly before they were used.

The Government has refused to assess compensation on the same basis as in the Republic of Ireland as it considers that the Irish blood transfusion service was found to be at fault, which was not the case in the UK.

Mr March, of Edith Road, West Kensington, and his supporters packed London's High Court as his counsel, Michael Fordham QC, told Mr Justice Holman that a judicial review was warranted as the decision was made for manifestly bad reasons.

He said: "We want the court to quash the decision of the Secretary of State not to accept the relevant recommendation of the Archer Report.

"What we say is that the Secretary of State should reconsider this important aspect on a correct basis."

At the start of the hearing, which is expected to last two days, the judge said that thousands of people were affected by the long-running campaign and the amounts at issue were very large – running up to £3.5 billion on the Irish scale as opposed to millions.

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