

Composer wins HIV blood case

● An award-winning composer who contracted HIV and hepatitis C through NHS treatment with contaminated blood products has won a legal challenge over "derisory" compensation.

Andrew March, 36, a haemophiliac from Kensington, London, had sought a judicial review after ministers failed to follow recommendations in an independent report to give victims compensation running to

hundreds of thousands of pounds each. About 4,670 haemophiliacs were given blood contaminated with the Hepatitis C virus and 1,200 were infected with HIV.

The Government offered those with HIV £12,800 a year, arguing that the transfusion service had not been at fault. Mr Justice Holman told the High Court this argument was "infected by an error" and said ministers should reconsider their position.