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Pakistani teenage migrant wins right to fight for free medical care on NHS

TAXPAYERS face a huge bill for a Pakistani teenager's medical care after he won the right yesterday to fight for free NHS treatment because it is superior to the care he would get in his homeland.

By: Anil Dawar

Published: Thu, October 24, 2013

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The teenager from Pakistan is having treatment in the UK for a blood disorder [FILE PIC/GETTY]

The 16-year-old was facing deportation but has been told he can appeal against it on human rights grounds because of his medical problems.

If he eventually wins his battle to stay solely to get better medical treatment it could open the doors for health tourists from around the world to descend on Britain.

The High Court ruling came just a day after an official report revealed foreign visitors and short-term migrants are costing the NHS up to £2billion a year.

Campaigners yesterday hit out at the news that the teenager, who suffers from a blood disorder which stunts growth and is potentially fatal, was on the verge of creating a legal precedent that could endanger Britain's health service.

Tory MP Dominic Raab said: "Of course, your heart goes out to anyone suffering. But, this novel human rights ruling risks opening the floodgates to foreign nationals claiming a right to stay to receive NHS care because it is better than the health care they would receive at home.

"The implications of this ruling for the NHS and the taxpayer are staggering."

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The teenager was allowed to stay on the grounds that UK medical care is better than in Pakistan [GETTY]

Ukip MEP Gerard Batten said: "It is a crazy judgement which is saying the National Health Service is actually an international health service open to all but paid for by the British taxpayer."

In a judgement yesterday, Lord Justice Maurice Kay told the teenager – identified only as MQ – he could appeal his case to the Upper Tribunal immigration court.

He said that MQ had entered the country lawfully and was guaranteed medical aid because he was legally a child.

But he "arrived with his serious medical conditions at an advanced stage and..it will be relevant to consider whether his arrival here was a manifestation of 'health tourism'."

The court was told that MQ is currently being treated at the Whittington Hospital in north London where he gets a transfusion every fortnight and is given growth hormones. Without the hugely expensive medication the teenager would die within a few years.



The 16 year old referred to as MQ is being treated at Whittington Hospital in north London [GOOGLE]

The lower standard of treatment available in Pakistan meant that if sent home he could only hope to live into his 30s at best, the court heard.

The teenager and his mother came to the UK in June last year on a six-month visitor's visa.

They immediately applied for asylum and permission to stay on human rights grounds as well as seeking out medical treatment.

After the Home Office refused the pair's applications, they appealed and yesterday's hearing was their fifth legally-aided attempt to get the decision overturned.

Lawyers argued that sending MQ back home would breach his right to protection from

It is a crazy judgement which is saying the National Health Service is actually an international health service open to all but paid for by the British taxpayer

Ukip MEP Gerard Batten

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inhuman treatment and the right to a private life under the European Convention on Human Rights.

Both the Department of Health and the Home Office declined to comment.

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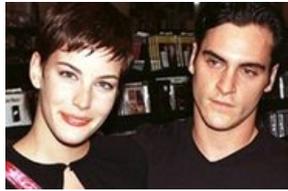
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[dinerouk](#) 5:53am on Saturday, 2nd November 2013 [Report This Comment](#)

It's difficult to overturn what has probably been common practise for decades? This certainly would have been allowed to exist under the 13 years of a Labour government.

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Steve009 8:59am on Wednesday, 30th October 2013 [Report This Comment](#)

They just appeal as many times as they need until the judgement goes in their favor.

AGAIN the EU interferes with our system, AGAIN this government allows treason by going against the Magna Carta.

I can see the UK people getting so fed up they will march on Downing street with an eviction notice. I would support that in a flash, especially how the Canadian government sat up and listened after tens of thousands march against the burka being worn in public. We really should learn from Canada and Australia's way of boarder security.

Sack this judge as the pillock has now made NHS tourism legal.

Camoran is quickly winning the race to be the most hated man in the UK, he is already at the top of the charts for being the UK's most cowardly, useless and traitorous PM then UK has has the misfortune the see.

Aerial61 8:51pm on Tuesday, 29th October 2013 [Report This Comment](#)

FIVE appeals? Using our taxes? Lied to get in the country, so this Judge has made fraud legal!

paddyleads 3:03pm on Tuesday, 29th October 2013 [Report This Comment](#)

I am sick to death hearing how our taxpayer money is being squandered on legal aid challenges that should not be allowed there should never be so many appeals allowed and sad as it is he and his mother should be deported

HughThompson 8:06am on Tuesday, 29th October 2013 [Report This Comment](#)

This human rites garbage should be stopped. If you go abroad you need insurance to cover medical emergencies, why should we allow foreign nationals to have free medical treatment when they come here. This lad arrived on our shores with this condition, we have looked after him whilst he was here, for free. He and his mum should go home now and be looked after by his own country. Whether their medical treatment is better than ours, or worse than ours, should not come into it. His mother brought him here with the serious medical condition, got a six month visitors visa, then tried to claim asylum straight away, and started getting free treatment on the NHS from the moment they arrived, if this is not medical tourism then what is.? They should be sent home, also the person who granted them their visitors visa, knowing that they would burden our NHS, because they could not pay for treatment whilst they were here, should be sacked, or at the very least severely reprimanded.

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