

Glasgow Herald
**Ministry
may be
sued over
girl's
leukemia**

A FORMER nuclear worker whose daughter has leukemia is preparing to sue the Ministry of Defence.

It would be the first action raised at the Court of Session in an effort to win compensation for the children of workers at Ministry submarine bases.

The Transport and General Workers' Union said at the weekend it had won more protection measures for workers at bases at Rosyth, Fife, and Faslane on the Clyde.

However, Mr John McDougall, 43, of Clentry Crescent, Kelty, Fife, said: "I am determined to go ahead.

"I fear the levels of radiation I and others received resulted in a genetic defect that led to my daughter having leukemia."

Solicitor Mr David Stevenson, of Edinburgh law company Robin Thomson, said yesterday: "I can confirm I am presently investigating the possibilities of advancing a claim in respect of his daughter Kelly's leukemia.

"This would be the first case of its kind, because neither British Nuclear Fuels nor the Ministry of Defence has indicated any compensation schemes would be extended to the children of workers.

"There is still a lot of work to be done

Mr McDougall, whose daughter is now eight years old and has been attending the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Edinburgh for chemotherapy and bone marrow transplants, worked at Rosyth as a fitter during the sixties and seventies on the Royal Navy's nuclear submarines.

Earlier this year, Defence Ministry figures showed nuclear workers may have been exposed to radiation doses higher than the levels of those set out in a report by Professor Martin Gardner on cancer clusters around the Sellafield nuclear plant.

Professor Gardner said the biggest risk in fathering a child with leukemia was among those who had received a lifetime dose of 100 millisieverts (mSv).

Ministry figures indicated 857 workers had received lifetime doses of more than that.

The Ministry of Defence yesterday declined to