

For all people affected by bleeding disorders



THE
HAEMOPHILIA
SOCIETY
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The Haemophilia Society response to the written Statement on Infected Blood made by Lord Prior of Brampton, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department of Health on 17 July 2015.

The Haemophilia Society is shocked and frustrated to hear that the Government continues to delay the much-needed support for those affected by the contaminated blood tragedy. We note that Lord Prior states this is a priority for Government, but goes on to say a consultation will be delayed as this is a complex and sensitive area and spending decisions on the Department of Health Budget will be made as part of the forthcoming spending review for 2016-17 onwards.

We recently wrote to the Secretary of State for Health to say taking money from an existing NHS budget and thus adversely affecting patients would be inappropriate and would add to the considerable distress those affected already experience. We believe that since the additional resources will be to correct the errors of past governments, funding should be from the Government Contingency Fund, and those affected should never be made to feel responsible in any way for reduced NHS funding elsewhere.

A delay in opening a consultation is also unacceptable given the extensive existing evidence available from multiple inquiries, surveys and personal testimonies, including those highlighted by cross party members of the APPG on Haemophilia and Contaminated Blood in three hour Back Bench Debate held in March 2015.

On 7 May 2015 we wrote to the Government and Department of Health with a proposal for establishing a new system of support for those impacted by the Contaminated Blood tragedy. We requested that the Government responded within four weeks and completed the consultation process within six months. This proposal included consultation both with those directly affected and with independent experts. We believed this was an entirely appropriate time scale. As yet we have had no response to our proposal.

We call upon the government to stop its delaying tactics and to act with urgency, showing respect to the families affected; many of which are in desperate need, to ensure they have financial security, receive the health and social care they deserve and can live with dignity.

20 July 2015

For further information please contact Liz Carroll, Chief Executive.