



**THE  
HAEMOPHILIA  
SOCIETY**

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Chris Wormald  
Permanent Secretary  
Department of Health  
Richmond House  
79 Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2NS

**Re: Contaminated Blood and Blood Products Inquiry**

**06 October 2016**

Dear Mr Wormald,

We are writing to you to inform you as a matter of courtesy that The Haemophilia Society and its members believe that your Department is clearly conflicted in its role in drafting the Terms of Reference for the above mentioned inquiry as the sponsoring body.

In addition, we confirm that we have written to the Prime Minister setting out this particular perspective on the basis that it is wrong and inappropriate for an entity such as your Department that is inevitably the subject of investigation to be the entity that frames the Terms of Investigation for such an Inquiry. On any objective stance that is a clear conflict of interest scenario where your department should now formally withdraw from the process as it is wrong to maintain its position that it can prepare independent Terms of Reference in relation to an issue that necessarily impinges upon the actions or inactions of your Department.

Accordingly, while we await a reply to that letter addressed to the Prime Minister, we have not been in a position to engage with your Department as the sponsoring body for this inquiry.

If we were to engage it would create the following difficulties:

1. We would be obliged to disclose our suspicions in relation to the actions or inactions of your Department in relation to the provision of blood products in this jurisdiction. Also we would be required to disclose our beliefs in relation to

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any failures that existed in respect of the response to viral infections by your Department.

2. More crucially, your Department as the sponsoring body for the inquiry process would have the ultimate decision in relation to the exact content of the terms of reference to be recommended to Parliament where those terms of reference are intended to address an investigation in to your Department. That is a clear conflict of interest situation on any objective stance.
3. It is wrong that your Department would have the capacity to control the inquiry by virtue of provision of funding to the inquiry and other participants. In those circumstances that is yet again a conflict of interest situation. Most participants to an Inquiry process would not expect that an entity the subject of investigation would hold the purse strings for that inquiry.

Accordingly, at this juncture, we continue to refrain from involvement in relation to negotiations of the Terms of Reference due to what we believe is a clear conflict of interest that exists in the context of your Department as the sponsoring body for this Inquiry.

It is incumbent, we respectfully suggest, for your Department now to withdraw from this process on the basis that its position is untenable.

We await your response.

Kind regards,



Liz Carroll  
Chief Executive  
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