**Suggested letter to your Member of Parliament (MP)**

**Why is this important?**

Highlighting the concerns about the proposals contained in the *Infected blood: reform of financial and other support* consultation document to your local MP will help to build recognition amongst policymakers that the proposals, as they stand, will not adequately support those affected.

We have drafted some suggested text for you to use to write to your local MP, using the contact details that you can find online (details included below). Please feel free to tailor this to suit you. We would also encourage you to share your own views on the consultation and to include how the proposals will affect you personally.

**Suggested letter to your local MP**

*Dear [insert MP]*

*I am writing to you regarding the Department of Health’s Infected blood: reform of financial and other support consultation, published on the 21 January 2016.*

*As you may be aware, the Public Health Minister, Jane Ellison MP, announced the launch of a consultation on reforms to the infected blood schemes in England, which helps to provide support for people affected by HIV and/or hepatitis C through treatment with NHS-supplied blood or blood products.*

*This announcement was long overdue as the current systems of payments are confusing and complex and in need of urgent reform to ensure people who are affected can access the support they need. However, despite the announcement of an additional £125 million of funding for the reformed scheme, The Haemophilia Society and its members have a number of serious concerns about these proposals. Far from delivering the vital reforms needed by those affected,* ***the majority of people currently receiving financial support will be financially worse off under the new scheme****.*

*The key concern is that the consultation proposes removing discretionary payments from the scheme, apart from ‘travel and accommodation related to ill health’. Currently people receive a range of discretionary payments such as winter fuel allowance, child supplements and low-income top ups. Removing these would mean that many people would lose out, potentially by thousands of pounds a year. As I am sure you will agree, it is imperative that the full impact of these proposed reforms is understood before any changes to the scheme are finalised.*

*The Haemophilia Society and its members would be very grateful if you would consider raising this issue with your colleagues at the Department of Health, to highlight the very real risk that many of the most disadvantaged people could be worse off under the new scheme.*

*Yours faithfully*

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| **Contacting your MP**  To find your local MP, you can search the list held on the parliament.uk website, which can be accessed here: <http://www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/mps/>  This will provide you with all of the necessary contact details including phone numbers, email and postal addresses. Please note that MPs will generally only act on behalf of people who live in their own constituency, so please check you are contacting the right MP for your address. |