



The Rt Hon Amber Rudd MP  
Secretary of State for Work and Pensions  
Department for Work and Pensions  
Caxton House  
Tothill Street  
London SW1H 9NA

23 July 2019

Dear Amber,

We write as members of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Haemophilia and Contaminated Blood to welcome your announcement of a review of the benefits system for those with life-limiting illnesses.

You have said that, at the first stage of this review, you are keen to hear directly from claimants and charities about their first-hand experiences of using the benefits system. You have also acknowledged the need for a system that works for those with chronic and serious conditions, as well as for those with terminal illnesses.

We believe that this review would also be a good opportunity to include those affected by the NHS contaminated blood scandal. It is important that the review takes this particular group into account as they have found themselves claiming benefits due to being harmed by the State.

As you know, an estimated 5,000 people with haemophilia and blood disorders were infected with HIV and Hepatitis viruses through the NHS contaminated blood scandal. In the past two years, on average, one person infected has died every four days. The ongoing Public Inquiry chaired by Sir Brian Langstaff is laying bare the true tragedy of this scandal, and the heart-breaking impacts it has had on the lives of patients and their families.

Our APPG's own ongoing Inquiry into the contemporary treatment of those with blood disorders has heard of the many barriers that those with haemophilia and blood disorders continue to face. The APPG has heard that, despite modern medicine, haemophilia and blood disorders remain life-limiting diseases, often impacting profoundly on patients' personal and professional lives.

As an APPG we have campaigned for some time, in advance of the final recommendations of the Infected Blood Inquiry and the resolution of matters such as compensation, that it would be an 'easy win' for victims of the Infected Blood scandal to



be passported onto new benefits without the requirement of undergoing Work Capability and other assessments.

Given that the State injured these citizens and in many cases ruined career opportunities, relationships and family life, it only compounds the suffering and unfairness for them to be required to undergo new benefit assessments. If it was not for the State, many of these citizens would be working and living normal, active lives – not calling upon the benefits system.

We understand that over a dozen stakeholders and charities have already been invited to share their views with you at the Department of Work and Pensions and we appreciate the clear momentum that exists behind this review. We hope to meet at your earliest convenience to discuss how we can ensure that the voices of those who were infected by the NHS are also heard.

Yours sincerely,

Diana Johnson MP

Sir Peter Bottomley MP

**Co-Chairs – APPG on Haemophilia and Contaminated Blood**

Andy Burnham Mayor of Greater Manchester

Alison Thewliss MP

Alistair Burt MP

Anna Turley MP

Barbara Keeley MP

Baroness Altman

Baroness Featherstone

Catherine West MP

Chris Matheson MP

Chris Stephens MP

Christine Jardine MP

Clive Efford MP

David Hanson MP

Derek Thomas MP

Derek Twigg MP

Gordon Marsden MP

Jessica Morden MP

Jim Cunningham MP

Jim McMahon MP

Jo Stevens MP

Joan Ryan MP

Jonathan Reynolds MP

Kelvin Hopkins MP

Kevin Hollinrake MP

Madeleine Moon MP

Martyn Day MP (rang)

Mary Creagh MP

Sir Oliver Heald MP

Sir Peter Bottomley MP

Stephen Kinnock MP

Tom Brake MP

Tulip Siddiq MP





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