



Rt Hon Dame Diana Johnson DBE MP
The APPG on Haemophilia and Contaminated Blood

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Sent by email in first instance to ministerial.correspondence@cabinetoffice.gov.uk

Tuesday, 29 March 2022

Dear Minister,

Thank you for your letter of the 23rd of March to the co-chairs of the APPG. We also have noted your letter in reply to Sir Brian Langstaff on the 21st March.

However, we feel compelled to write to you again on behalf of the cross-party APPG on Haemophilia and Contaminated Blood alongside the undersigned individuals and organisations.

We believe it is essential for you to listen to the voices of people affected by contaminated blood and blood products before you reach any conclusions around the proposals in Sir Robert Francis' Report.

Giving them time to see and respond to Sir Robert Francis' report prior to a government response gives due respect to the people affected who generously gave their time to support his process. The current planned approach of publishing the report on the same day as the government response would be a disservice to them and risks poor and costly decision-making by government.

This community should know how Sir Robert calibrated their views and what he has proposed. They then deserve the opportunity to have their views on his proposals heard by you before you draw any conclusion on the compensation that they have waited decades to receive.

While we are pleased to hear that work is already underway to consider Sir Robert's work, we would strongly urge you to implement a two-stage approach to the publication of the Sir Robert Francis' Report and your response. We believe this will improve the quality of the government's response, as well as helping you to maintain a level of confidence around your handling of the compensation process.

We also would welcome the opportunity you suggest to discuss the emerging themes in the government's work and would be pleased to meet with you and ideally for you to join us at an APPG meeting as soon as convenient.

I am sure we do not need to tell you how important it is for us all to work together to quickly resolve the question of compensation. Many of those treated with contaminated blood and blood products are now old and not in good health. They deserve to see compensation, that they feel fairly reflects their suffering, delivered in their lifetime. Too many members of this community have already died without that.

We therefore call on you to immediately publish Sir Robert Francis's Report and with that publication to create an opportunity for consideration of the report by people infected and affected. It would also allow more effective scrutiny by the infected blood inquiry before the Government publish their response.

Yours sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of Diana Johnson and Peter Bottomley in black ink.

Rt Hon Dame Diana Johnson MP, MP for Hull North and Co-Chair of the APPG on Haemophilia and Contaminated Blood

Sir Peter Bottomley MP, MP for Worthing West and Co-Chair of the APPG on Haemophilia and Contaminated Blood

Lord Black of Brentwood, Vice Chair, All Party Parliamentary Group on HIV/AIDS

Ian Lavery MP, Member, APPG on Haemophilia and Contaminated Blood

Baroness Masham of Ilton, Member, APPG on Haemophilia and Contaminated Blood

Jessica Morden MP, Vice Chair, APPG on Haemophilia and Contaminated Blood

David Mundell MP, Co-Chair, All Party Parliamentary Group on HIV/AIDS

Andy Slaughter MP, Member, APPG on Haemophilia and Contaminated Blood

Chris Stephens MP, Vice Chair, APPG on Haemophilia and Contaminated Blood

Alison Thewlis MP, Member, APPG on Haemophilia and Contaminated Blood

Dr Philippa Whitford, Vice Chair, APPG on Haemophilia and Contaminated Blood

Organisations and Individuals

Kate Burt, Chief Executive, The Haemophilia Society

Jackie Britton, BloodLoss Families

Sharon Comstive

Andrew Evans, Chair, TaintedBlood

TaintedBlood Bereaved Spouses and Partners

TaintedBlood Bereaved Parents Support Group

Jason Evans, Founder, Factor 8

Justine Gordon-Smith

Ian Green, Chief Executive, Terrence Higgins Trust

Mary Grindley

Rachel Halford, Chief Executive Officer, The Hepatitis C Trust

Tommy Leggate, Scottish Infected Blood Forum

Karen Pearce

Clive Smith, Chair, The Haemophilia Society

David Waltham

Glenn Wilkinson, Contaminated Blood Campaign

Bill Wright, Chair, Haemophilia Scotland