



Rt Hon Michael Ellis QC MP
Minister for the Cabinet Office
HM Paymaster General
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Dame Diana Johnson MP
Sir Peter Bottomley MP
Co-Chairs APPG on Haemophilia and Contaminated Blood

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By email: johnsond@parliament.uk
APPG@haemophilia.org.uk

cc: commonsleader@cabinetoffice.gov.uk

27th April 2022

Dear Diana and Peter,

Thank you for your letter of 29 March on behalf of the APPG on Haemophilia and Contaminated Blood regarding the publication of the Infected Blood Compensation Framework Study by Sir Robert Francis QC.

The Compensation Framework Study was commissioned to meet a commitment given to campaigners in January 2020. Sir Francis was asked to consider the options for a framework of compensation for people infected and affected by infected blood - should the Infected Blood Inquiry's findings and recommendations require it. I should note that the Government scheduled the study so that it would be published in advance of the Inquiry's report to avoid the delays which often accompany the implementation of such a framework.

I appreciate the urgency to examine the issue of compensation and it is for this very reason that Sir Robert completed his work to such a demanding timescale. I also recognise how important it is that the views of campaigners, as well as infected and affected people were reflected in Sir Robert's study. It is for this reason that infected and affected core participants to the Inquiry, and their Recognised Legal Representatives were consulted not only on the Terms of Reference of the study, but also played a significant part of Sir Robert's information gathering process itself.

Commissioning the compensation framework study whilst the independent Inquiry was still hearing evidence and in advance of its report was an unusual but important step given the urgency of the situation. It is only right, therefore, that having received the study I take time to consider the report and consult my Ministerial colleagues. I intend to publish the study and the Government response in time for the Inquiry and its core participants to consider them before Sir Robert gives evidence to the Inquiry on 11 and 12 July. At that point all those with an

interest, including your wider APPG group, will have an opportunity to express their views on both the study and the Government's response. I hope you will understand but it is for these reasons that I do not believe my attendance at your APPG at this point would be appropriate. I would however of course be happy to meet both of you should that be helpful.

In addition to your letter, the Leader of the House has also written to me noting your comments at Business Questions in the House on 17 March about plans for parliamentary handling when the study is published, and I can confirm that intend to make a statement at that point. I will copy this letter to the Leader to demonstrate that the points you raised and which he drew attention to have been noted.

Thank you again for writing to me about this matter.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Ellis', written in a cursive style.

**Rt Hon Michael Ellis QC MP
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