



The Rt Hon John Glen MP
Paymaster General
Cabinet Office
London SW1A 2AS

Sent by email to ministerial.correspondence@cabinetoffice.gov.uk

17 January 2024

Dear Mr Glen

We write to you again on the pressing issue of obtaining full compensation for people infected and affected by contaminated blood and blood products.

When the Infected Blood Inquiry publishes its final report on 20 May it will be more than 13 months since its Second Interim Report called for a compensation scheme to be up and running by the end of 2023.

As we enter 2024, the anxiety and uncertainty caused by your government's lack of response to this urgent report is continuing to weigh heavily on the lives of those infected and affected by this appalling scandal.

With the news that we still have four months to wait until the Infected Blood Inquiry's final report is published, it is imperative that action is taken before then to establish a compensation scheme. Inquiry chair, Sir Brian Langstaff, has re-emphasised the need for an immediate response to his recommendations on compensation. He said today: 'My principal recommendation remains that a compensation scheme should be set up with urgency. No-one should be in any doubt about the serious nature of the failings over more than six decades that have led to catastrophic loss of life and compounded suffering.'

In your statement to MPs in December, you announced that you had approached experts to begin the process of forming medical and legal panels to potentially determine compensation tariffs. While any progress is to be welcomed, we urge you to honour your commitment to meet those impacted by this NHS disaster, and their representatives, to ensure any emerging scheme meets the needs of those who will use it. Constructive involvement now with those at the heart of this scandal will help to shape a robust and practical scheme.



The point has often been made that for far too many people compensation and justice will come too late. We're devastated to tell you that our colleague Simon Hamilton, Chair of Haemophilia NI, a leader and campaigner for all those in search of truth and justice, died on 25 December 2023. In recent years Simon joined us in writing no fewer than seven letters to you, your predecessors and senior ministers, urging swift action on compensation and other issues. He, like thousands of others, did not live to see the results of his campaigning or hear why he and his family were harmed through NHS treatment for his haemophilia.

In Simon's memory, and that of many thousands of others who have died without getting the answers they deserved, we ask you to accelerate your work on a potential compensation scheme and to be transparent about what you are doing.

We have seen from your government's recent response to the Horizon IT Post Office scandal what true 'political will' looks like. Those infected and affected by the contaminated blood scandal now expect nothing less than equal treatment.

We await your response and look forward to the opportunity to meet you in the near future.

Yours sincerely

C. Smith

Chair, the Haemophilia Society UK

Bill Wight

Chair, Haemophilia Scotland

Cc Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP, Chancellor of Exchequer
Rt Hon Penny Mordaunt MP, Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House of Commons
Dame Diana Johnson MP, Co-Chair APPG Haemophilia & Contaminated Blood
Sir Peter Bottomley MP, Co-Chair APPG Haemophilia & Contaminated Blood
Sir Brian Langstaff, Chair the Infected Blood Inquiry
Nigel Hamilton, Trustee Haemophilia Northern Ireland