



[The Rt Hon John Glen MP](#), Paymaster General

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

27 March 2024

Dear Mr. Glen

We write to express concern about the purpose and value of your proposed 25 meetings across the UK with people infected and affected by contaminated blood and blood products.

The scant details available about your proposed 'tour' do not inspire confidence that it will achieve meaningful engagement or uncover any information which has not already been highlighted at the Infected Blood Inquiry. We share the widespread concern among our community that these meetings may simply be another ploy by government to delay dealing with the urgent issue of compensation.

For these meetings to have relevance and attract meaningful engagement, you would need to be clear and upfront that the government is committed to paying compensation.

You would also need to address the following points:

- What is the government's outline plan for delivering compensation?
- When do you expect a compensation system to be in place?
- What are the Terms of Reference of the government's expert panel on compensation chaired by Professor Sir Jonathan Montgomery?
- Will the minutes of these meetings be made available?
- What information are they considering?
- What is the timeframe for this group to meet and report?

Without any new information from government outlining its path to compensation, we cannot see why these meetings are taking place.

We must remind you that the Infected Blood Inquiry heard from 370 witnesses in person and received 4,000 statements from people infected or affected by contaminated blood products. Based on this information, and that of experts, the inquiry recommended in April 2023 that compensation should be paid as a matter of urgency.

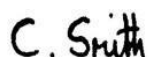
The Cabinet Office received extensive advice from the report it commissioned on setting up a compensation framework which was submitted by its author, Sir Robert Francis, in March 2022 and published in June 2022. Sir Robert also met people both infected and affected before writing his report.

The case for compensation and the way in which it should be delivered has already been made with uncompromising clarity by Sir Brian Langstaff, Chair of the Infected Blood Inquiry. He reiterated in January 2024 that his 'principal recommendation remains that a compensation scheme should be set up with urgency'.

We ask you to take a first step towards meaningful engagement with the community by answering the questions above, rather than embarking on a time-consuming and opaque information-gathering exercise which has already been completed by the Infected Blood Inquiry.

We also restate our offer to meet with you made in our last letter dated 17 January 2024 and look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely



Chair, the Haemophilia Society UK



Chair, Haemophilia Scotland



Chair, Haemophilia Northern Ireland