



Rt Hon. John Glen MP
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By Email Only

17th April 2024

To whom it may concern

I am writing to you as the Minister responsible for the Government's response and in recognition of the vital role you have taken in campaigning on behalf of everyone who has been impacted by the infected blood scandal.

I recognise the suffering and loss that the community have encountered as a result of this scandal. **Therefore, I want to be clear, we are absolutely committed to paying compensation to those impacted by the infected blood scandal. We understand that justice is long overdue, but are cognisant of the importance of getting it right.**

As you will be aware, the Victims and Prisoners Bill was amended on 4 December 2023 to include an amendment to "establish a delivery body to administer a compensation scheme for victims of the infected blood scandal". The current drafting of this amendment would not establish the scheme itself, only a body to administer it, and would not be sufficient to deliver UK-wide. That is why we committed to bring forward amendments at Report Stage in the House of Lords to resolve this.

We are making progress on this commitment. **Today, the Government is tabling amendments to provide an appropriate legal framework to both establish a UK-wide compensation scheme and an arms-length body to deliver it.** This is public and you can view it on the Victims and Prisoners Bill page on the UK Parliament [website](https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3443): <https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3443>. Our aim is to ensure that the provisions related to infected blood have the desired effect of speeding up the implementation of the Government's response to the Infected Blood Inquiry.

I must be candid with you that setting up an arms-length body is not a quick process. There are practicalities that must be worked through if we are to get this right. However, I recognise that many people have already been waiting far too long to receive recognition. For this reason, the Government amendment includes provisions to ensure that the arms-length body will be legally established on Royal Assent. In addition, the amendment includes provisions for interim payments to be

made to the estates of people who have died as a result of the Infected Blood scandal, and were registered with the Infected Blood Support Schemes, or its predecessor schemes.

Whilst the Infected Blood Inquiry recommended that interim payments of £100,000 are split between groups (parents, children or siblings). This would require the Government to identify all potential recipients in a group before payments can be made. The Government amendment proposes an alternative which would respect any wishes or instructions of the deceased person or their executors and ensure that recipients can be identified, and payments made, as swiftly as possible.

I also know there has been concern about understanding the role of the expert group in our work and for this reason I have published the Terms of Reference for the expert group. It will be available on gov.uk today. Please be assured, the work of the expert group is intended to build on, not replace the recommendations made by Sir Robert Francis and Sir Brian Langstaff. The expert group is providing technical assistance in understanding how the Inquiry's recommendations could work in practice. This will enable the Government to make an informed decision on responding to recommendations in a manner which reflects the needs of individuals in the community and the far reaching impacts this scandal has had on their lives whilst also considering what implications this has for delivery.

I hope this update provides clarity on the Government's position and intentions. My deepest sympathies remain with all those infected and affected by this terrible scandal and you have my reassurance that bringing justice and recognition to the victims of the infected blood scandal continues to be my top priority. Thank you for continuing to campaign on this important matter, and I plan to engage with you further as we develop this work.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John P. Glen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

**RT HON JOHN GLEN MP
MINISTER FOR THE CABINET OFFICE
HM PAYMASTER GENERAL**