



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

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The Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP
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Sent by email to ministerial.correspondence@cabinetoffice.gov.uk

Thursday, 23 May 2024

Dear Prime Minister,

Campaigners cautiously welcomed government commitments this week to begin to respond to the pain, loss and horror of the contaminated blood scandal by accepting, in principle, the Infected Blood Inquiry's recommendations on compensation and redress.

When making an apology on behalf of successive governments on Monday in parliament you reassured people that you would make this happen and that "whatever it costs to deliver the scheme, we will pay it".

Now that we have heard that there will be a general election in July this has led to great confusion and worry for people infected and affected by contaminated blood and blood products as to what this means for your announcement this week that the government will pay "comprehensive compensation".

They need urgent updates on five points:

- Will the Victims and Prisoners Bill, which would formally establish the Infected Blood Compensation Authority and allow the first interim compensation payments to be made to the estates of those who have died, receive Royal Assent before parliament is dissolved?
- Will additional interim compensation payments to surviving infected people still be made this summer and will those payments be extended to bereaved partners?
- When will the long overdue bespoke psychological support scheme in England be up and running and when will his government properly resource this work which has been so delayed?
- How will the Government ensure that legal representatives of people infected and affected by contaminated blood and blood products continue to have the funds and the access to represent their clients' interests in Sir Robert Francis' engagement exercise and to IBCA once formally established?
- The Government need to stop plans to effectively discontinue the existing infected blood support schemes from 1 April 2025 which is creating massive instability and worry for those who rely on them.

Offering people compensation while at the same time taking away what they get from the support schemes is a callous act which removes income they rely on to survive and will leave some people only marginally better off than they are now. It also contradicts both the recommendations of the Infected Blood Inquiry and Sir Robert Francis' study for the Cabinet Office as well as repeated government reassurances that the support schemes would remain in place for life.

There are many further concerns that people infected and affected by contaminated blood and blood products have about the details of this week's announcements on compensation, and the operation of the Infected Blood Compensation Authority, which they continue to discuss with the Cabinet Office and Sir Robert Francis in his role as interim chair of IBCA but the five key issues above must be urgently addressed by you before parliament prorogues this week.

Yours sincerely,



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

Baroness Featherstone and Chris Stephens MP Vice-Chairs of the APPG on Haemophilia and Contaminated Blood

Cc Rt Hon John Glen MP, Paymaster General, Rt Hon Penny Mordaunt MP, Leader of the House of Commons, Sir Robert Francis KC, interim Chair, IBCA and Sir Brian Langstaff, Chair, The Infected Blood Inquiry