

7 February 2020

Dear Lord Bew

I write to you as chair of the House of Lords Appointments Commission concerning the nomination of former MP Kenneth Clarke for a peerage.

As CEO of The Haemophilia Society, my charity represents many families whose lives have been destroyed by the contaminated blood scandal which took place in the 1970s and 80s.

You will be aware that more than 5,000 people with haemophilia and other bleeding disorders were infected with HIV and hepatitis viruses during that period. Since then more than 3,000 people have died, and of the 1,200 infected with HIV, less than 250 are still alive.

As Minister of State (Health) from 1982-1985 and Secretary of State for Health from 1988 – 1990, Mr Clarke occupied influential positions in government at pivotal moments during the contaminated blood scandal.

As such, it is expected that Mr Clarke will be asked to give evidence at the Infected Blood Inquiry, which is currently investigating the contaminated blood scandal.

Given this outstanding professional investigation, it would seem premature to grant Mr Clarke a peerage before the public inquiry has had the opportunity to report its findings. Many infected and affected by the contaminated blood scandal are very distressed that this proposal has been made while they are waiting for the inquiry to uncover how and why decisions were taken by government that led to the devastation of the bleeding disorders community.

As you are charged with maintaining the highest standards of propriety, I ask you to defer your decision until after the Infected Blood Inquiry has published its report.

Yours sincerely



Liz Carroll
CEO, The Haemophilia Society

For everyone affected by a genetic bleeding disorder

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