

28 January 2021

The Rt Hon Penny Mordaunt MP
Paymaster General
Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2AS

Dear Ms Mordaunt

A year ago today a large group of campaigners met your predecessor to discuss urgent and life-changing issues related to the contaminated blood scandal.

We have heard nothing substantive since. To the outside world, it seems you and your Government have turned your backs on the poverty, financial injustice and poor physical and mental health that so many in our community across the UK continue to suffer.

Today we ask you to listen and to act. This is what The Haemophilia Society UK believes you should be working on right now:

- Creating a framework for compensation to enable swift action once the Infected Blood Inquiry reports in 2022.
- Ensuring infected blood support schemes in the UK are fair and equal.
- Including bereaved parents and children in the infected blood support schemes with better provision for bereaved partners.
- Making long-term, specialist psychological support available to all those infected or affected by the contaminated blood scandal.

While respecting that health is a devolved issue, as minister with responsibility for the Infected Blood Inquiry, we believe you have a duty to address these fundamental concerns which continue to blight the lives of those infected and affected.

We are not alone in highlighting these points. Sir Brian Langstaff, chair of the Infected Blood Inquiry, has criticised the “grinding hardship” in which many of those affected and infected

For everyone affected by a genetic bleeding disorder

President: Baroness Meacher Registered charity no. 288260. Charity Registered in Scotland No SC039732.

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THE
HAEMOPHILIA
SOCIETY

52B Borough High Street
London SE1 1XN
Tel: 020 7939 0780
Email: info@haemophilia.org.uk
Web: haemophilia.org.uk

live. In March 2020 he called for the provision of long-term specialist psychological to be put in place before the inquiry concludes.

You will appreciate that many in our community gave up on the promises of politicians decades ago, but with the public inquiry now well established it is clear that a political solution must be found to address these fundamental problems.

We are also writing to the Chancellor in an attempt to facilitate and accelerate cross-departmental cooperation to resolve these issues.

We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

Clive Smith
Chair of the board of trustees
The Haemophilia Society UK

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