

6 May 2020

Dear Ms Mordaunt

As lead minister for the Infected Blood Inquiry – the fourth since the inquiry was announced – you will hopefully be aware that there are a number of issues which urgently need addressing.

Campaigners, including myself, met your predecessor Oliver Dowden and Nadine Dorries, the then minister for patient safety, suicide prevention and mental health, on 28 January 2020 to discuss our concerns, including a lack of long-term specialist psychological support and the need for fair financial support across the UK.

There has been no follow up to this meeting and yet the issues raised four months ago are as urgent as ever. At the end of the expert hearings in February 2020, the chair of the inquiry, Sir Brian Langstaff, referred to the "grinding hardship" that victims continue to endure.

I appreciate that the current COVID-19 crisis is posing unprecedented challenges for Government and the entire country. However, the needs of those infected and affected by the contaminated blood scandal have not gone away and must be addressed.

I urge you to arrange a video conference with campaigners as soon as possible to re-start work on behalf of those infected and affected.

You will know from the minutes of the 28 January meeting that many issues were raised. The Haemophilia Society believes the following topics should be included in discussions:

- Funding the provision of long-term specialist psychological support across the UK
- Parity of all UK infected blood support schemes
- Including bereaved parents and bereaved children in the infected blood support schemes
- Establishing a framework for awarding compensation, pending the outcome of the Infected Blood Inquiry

We are, of course, pleased that the Infected Blood Inquiry has been established and that the voices of those infected and affected by the contaminated blood scandal are finally being heard. However, it feels that outside the inquiry we are still struggling to get beyond token meetings which appear to be little more than publicity stunts.

**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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Many in our community are struggling financially and psychologically and need help right now. More than 3,000 people with haemophilia and other bleeding disorders have died as a result of this scandal and many thousands more have died as a result of infection through blood transfusions. The death toll continues to rise with every passing month.

We have seen in recent weeks how, with political will, decisions can be made quickly and funds deployed immediately. Action can be taken now that will improve the lives of those infected and affected. I, along with our members, hope you will be the minister who not only listens, but acts.

I look forward to receiving your reply.

Yours sincerely

C. Smith

Clive Smith  
Chair of the board of trustees  
The Haemophilia Society

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