



10 DOWNING STREET  
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27 March 2019

THE PRIME MINISTER

*Dear Ms Carroll and Mr Smith*

Thank you for your letters of 28 September 2018 and 16 October 2018 about the Infected Blood Inquiry. I am sorry it has taken so long to reply but I understand my office has been in touch in the intervening period.

The moving testimonies that were given during the Commemoration Ceremony last September brought home the terrible human cost of this scandal in a way that was both dignified and powerful.

The Commemoration also emphasised the importance of the independent Inquiry. This tragedy has touched all parts of the UK. It is vital that the Scottish Government is able to play a full part in the Inquiry, and I was therefore pleased that it was granted Core Participant status on 1 November 2018 and that, along with the UK's other administrations, it can offer its full support to the Inquiry. I hope this provides reassurance on this point.

I am very grateful to all the representatives of campaign groups, including the Haemophilia Society, who took the trouble to meet Jackie Doyle-Price MP, the Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, on 21 January to discuss the issue of financial support, alongside the Rt Hon David Lidington MP, the sponsoring Minister for the Inquiry. I know both Ministers found the meeting both moving and instructive, and part of what we hope will be a continuing and useful dialogue.

The Department of Health and Social Care has noted the concerns raised about the differences in payments across the UK and is giving this matter very careful consideration. They will provide an update as soon as practicable.

David Lidington will continue to ensure the Inquiry has all the resources it needs to complete its work quickly, thoroughly and transparently. I will also continue to follow the work of the Inquiry; please stay in touch with my office if there are any further issues you wish to raise.

For too long, your voices went unheard and I want to reassure you that all those infected and affected will be listened to.

Yours sincerely  
R. J.

Ms Liz Carroll and Mr Clive Smith