

25 November 2019

Dear Mr Hancock

I write to you in anger and frustration that the Conservative Party has chosen to omit any reference to The Infected Blood Inquiry and the victims of the contaminated blood scandal from its general election manifesto.

Our community has been ignored and dismissed for more than 30 years, so to be overlooked again by the party which instigated the Infected Blood Inquiry just two years ago, is a particularly bitter blow.

This silence on the outcome of the Infected Blood Inquiry, and indeed on any measures to give financial dignity to the victims and their families while we await its final recommendations, also appears to be at odds with your reported comments in an interview with The Daily Mail earlier this month.

In the interview, published on 9 November, you are asked whether compensation will be paid to victims of the contaminated blood scandal. We understand that the full quote of the answer you gave was: "If that is what the Inquiry recommends then I stand ready to ensure that any compensation is funded."

My question is straightforward: If the Conservative Party is returned to office following the general election on December 12, can you confirm whether your pledge still stands? Please give us your commitment on this issue.

While I appreciate that an election manifesto is not a comprehensive insight into a party's plans for office, it is a document which sets out issues of top priority. It is clear from The Conservative Party's manifesto launch yesterday that the Infected Blood Inquiry and its victims are not a priority at all, which I find insulting and completely unacceptable.

I urge you to address this issue with your colleagues in the Conservative Party. Many victims of the contaminated blood scandal have already spoken up with great bravery at the Infected Blood Inquiry to shine a light on this appalling cover-up, which should never have happened. More than 3,000 people with haemophilia and other bleeding disorders died as a

For everyone affected by a genetic bleeding disorder

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result of treatment with contaminated blood products and many thousands more were infected as a result of blood transfusions. Every week, the death toll rises.

This community needs to know that when the Infected Blood Inquiry has done its work – work instigated by your party - politicians will not turn their backs on it once again. I ask you to play your part in ensuring those infected and affected by the contaminated blood scandal receive the support they need.

Yours sincerely

Liz Carroll
CEO The Haemophilia Society

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