



Rt Hon Michael Ellis QC MP
Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2AS

15 / 06 / 2022

Dear Mr Ellis

We write to you on the urgent issue of compensation for those infected and affected by HIV and hepatitis C infections through NHS treatment using contaminated blood and blood products.

Sir Robert Francis QC's Infected Blood Compensation Study, published on 7 June 2022, reiterated what has been clear for decades – that there is a 'strong moral and social justification' for the government to pay compensation. We were pleased to see the report echoed many of the key issues raised by the Haemophilia Society and its members.

The 'compelling case' for an interim payment of no less than £100,000 was made by Sir Robert, which we believe should be paid to all those infected and affected who are registered with an infected blood support scheme.

Sir Robert's report has raised hopes that compensation could, should and will be paid and there is now a pressing need to know if the government agrees.

We urge you to publish the government's proposals on compensation before Parliament begins its summer recess next month and to confirm that interim payments of no less than £100,000 will be made to those infected and affected currently registered on a support scheme before the end of this year.

It is 39 years since HIV was first diagnosed in the haemophilia community in the UK as a result of treatment with contaminated blood products. Next month it will be five years since the Infected Blood Inquiry was announced, it is almost two years since your predecessor, Penny Mordaunt MP, told the Chancellor that she believed substantial amounts of compensation were 'inevitable', and it is three months since Sir Robert submitted his compensation report to you. We have waited a long time for government to recognise and remedy the harm caused by the 'actions of the state', as Sir Robert put it.

The Haemophilia Society

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Thousands have already died, waiting in vain for their suffering to be compensated by the government. As Sir Robert makes clear, many of the infected are not interested in compensation for themselves, they want only to ensure their loved ones are provided for after their deaths. Please do not extend their agony further by delays and uncertainty. For every week that you dither, more people die, leaving families unsupported and frightened about their future security.



Sir Robert observes that over many years those infected and affected have been through a 'rollercoaster of raised then dashed expectations with regard to support and recognition of their plight'. At present we perch on top of the rollercoaster again, dreading the long plunge down. Will your government be the one to put an end to this cruel suffering and finally set out clearly that compensation will be paid fairly, quickly and generously, as recommended by Sir Robert?

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kate Burt'.

Kate Burt
Chief executive
The Haemophilia Society

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'C. Smith'.

Clive Smith
Chair
The Haemophilia Society

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