



Rt Hon Jeremy Quin MP
Paymaster General
Cabinet Office
London
SW1A 2AS

2 December 2022

Dear Mr Quin

We write on the urgent issue of setting up a framework to deliver full compensation for people infected and affected by NHS treatment with contaminated blood and blood products in the 1970s and 80s.

In April 2022 the government pledged to publish a response to its own compensation framework study carried out by Sir Robert Francis KC. Yet, five months after the publication of his study, the government's position is still unclear. It would appear that Parliament was misled, and the record must now be corrected to reflect this.

At a debate in Westminster Hall on 24 November 2022, junior minister Alex Burghart said the government now had no plans to respond to Sir Robert's study before the Infected Blood Inquiry reports next year. This was then contradicted by an anonymous ministerial comment to *The Sunday Times*, resulting in yet more confusion.

For those infected and affected by contaminated blood products this political zig zag is a matter of life and death. Delays to the delivery of full compensation will inevitably mean that some people will die before receiving a single penny of compensation, such as bereaved parents, many of whom are elderly and in poor health.

While the recent interim compensation payment was welcome, it did not include many of those affected, such as bereaved children, siblings, parents and unpaid carers. As the government itself is keen to stress, this is the beginning of the process and not the end. Those left out of the initial payment need to know that their loss will be recognised in the final compensation settlement. Those infected, many of whom have lived with their infections and the stigma of HIV and hepatitis for decades, are waiting to hear how the government intends to calculate the complex impact their infections have had on their lives and that of their loved ones.

There is so much work still to be done and the government's complete lack of transparency further erodes any trust and confidence our community may have had that it will do the right thing.

We urge you to meet with us and other campaigners to discuss the government's plans for creating a framework for compensation ready to implement when the Infected Blood Inquiry reports.

The Haemophilia Society

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Compensation will never make up for the death of a beloved family member, nor, for the infected, the loss of what was once a bright future, but it does offer governmental recognition of the suffering caused, which is why the current impasse is so painful for those still waiting for that acknowledgement.



We look forward to your response.

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

cc Rt Hon Stephen Barclay MP, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
cc Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP, The Chancellor of the Exchequer

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