



Rt Hon. John Glen MP
Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General
Cabinet Office 70 Whitehall London
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Clive Smith
Chair, The Haemophilia Society
52 Borough High Street
London
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Our reference: MC2023/12027

cc: Bill Wright
Chair, Haemophilia Scotland
Simon Hamilton
Chair, Haemophilia Northern Ireland

By email: Kate@haemophilia.org.uk

20th November 2023

Dear Clive,

Thank you for your letter of 13 October, addressed to the Prime Minister. I am responding on his behalf as Sponsor Minister for the Infected Blood Inquiry.

The Infected Blood Inquiry has done a huge amount of work on this complex issue. The Government continues to fully support the Inquiry in its important work and is working hard to be ready to respond.

In the Prime Minister's Introduction to the King's Speech there was direct recognition of the Government's commitment to responding to the Infected Blood Inquiry's recommendations soon after the final report. This update confirms that commitment.

As the Prime Minister stated, "We will also act swiftly in response to the final report of the Infected Blood Inquiry - following the interim payments we have already made. The use of infected blood and blood products was an appalling tragedy and a dreadful failure." The Government has accepted the moral case for compensation, and in October 2022 made interim payments to the infected and bereaved partners registered on the Infected Blood support schemes. This was the first step, and we are working hard to be ready to respond soon after the publication of the final report.

In my predecessor's previous letter to you in August, the former Minister for the Cabinet Office highlighted that he gave evidence to the Infected Blood Inquiry and set out the considerations we are working through across the Government. On 23 October, he made a

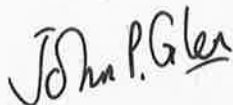
statement in Parliament updating on the Government response to the Inquiry. As set out in his statement, he recognises the calls for urgency and the Government remains committed to responding to the Inquiry as quickly as possible following the publication of the final report. However, it is only reasonable that the Government's response is fully informed by Sir Brian's final report.

Settlements in the Horizon Shortfall Scheme and to those with overturned convictions are paid from the Post Office to the claimant. Payments under the Group Litigation Order Scheme are made by the Department to the claimant. The Group Litigation Order Compensation Scheme is not set out in legislation. The spend is authorised by Parliament under the annual Supply and Appropriation Acts. This is an upfront offer for every Postmaster who was wrongfully convicted and has had their conviction overturned as it was reliant on Horizon evidence.

The timetable of the Inquiry is a matter for the independent chair and the Government supports his desire to complete the Inquiry's vital work quickly but with the necessary thoroughness. I will provide an update to Parliament as soon as it is appropriate.

Thank you again for taking the time to write on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John P. Glen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line under the name.

**RT HON. JOHN GLEN MP
MINISTER FOR THE CABINET OFFICE
HM PAYMASTER GENERAL**