

Liz Carroll
CEO The Haemophilia Society
Willcox House
140-144 Borough High Street
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SE1 1LB

4th December 2019

Dear Ms Carroll,

Thank you for your letter regarding the Infected Blood Inquiry.

In his letter to you dated 21st October 2019, the Prime Minister set out his personal commitment to providing the Inquiry with all the support it needs to complete its work as quickly as a thorough examination of the facts allows.

I also want to reassure you, and all those who have suffered so greatly, that the Inquiry is a priority for us. We understand how vital it is that the victims and their families get the answers they have spent decades waiting for. Nothing will be held back, so victims can have confidence they will get the answers they deserve, and we can ensure that lessons are learnt so that a tragedy of this scale can never happen again.

In your letter you reference compensation. Our position is that we will look carefully at the Inquiry's recommendations which may lead others to make determinations of liability, and therefore determine compensation. The Inquiry will report to my colleague in the Cabinet Office, Rt Hon Oliver Dowden, whom I have copied into this response. He has said he will look at the Inquiry's findings and act on them with urgency once Sir Brian Langstaff's team has completed its work. In the meantime, we must let the Inquiry get on with its job with the full backing of all parts of government.

With regards to support for victims, we have also announced a major uplift in the financial support available in England, and recognising the disparity in financial support in different parts of the UK, we have committed to working with the Devolved Administrations to achieve parity of support throughout the nations. We hope to return to Government and pick this up as soon as possible.

I wish to reassure you that the Infected Blood Inquiry is a priority for our party. The Prime Minister has been clear that victims should have the answers they have waited far too long for and we must make sure something like this never happens again.

Best wishes,



Matt Hancock
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care