



Rt Hon. John Glen MP
Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General
Cabinet Office 70 Whitehall London
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Dear Mr Hamilton

21 May 2024

PUBLICATION OF THE INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY'S FINAL REPORT

On Monday 20 May, the Infected Blood Inquiry ('the Inquiry') published its final report. The report sets out the devastating consequences of the use of infected blood and blood products, and I know that this moment will have been incredibly important to all of you, and those you represent. Justice is long overdue, and I hope you feel this report has gone some way to bringing everyone infected and affected by the infected blood scandal the recognition they deserve. As the Prime Minister said on Monday, *"This is an apology from the state to every single person impacted by this scandal. It did not have to be this way. It should never have been this way."*

Today, I announced the Government's proposals for the Infected Blood Compensation Scheme. I understand that no amount of money will erase the suffering endured by every person whose life has been impacted by the infected blood scandal. However, I hope the compensation we have announced today is a step towards providing recognition of the harms done. The scheme will be delivered by an arm's-length body named the Infected Blood Compensation Authority, which is being legislated for through the Victims and Prisoners Bill, and currently going through Parliament.

Principles

As recommended by the Inquiry, the Infected Blood Compensation Scheme must have regard to the principles of: "speed of provision, simplicity of process, accessibility, involvement, proactive support, fairness and efficiency." Above all, the scheme must treat people with respect, dignity and compassion. These are basic rights which too often people impacted by this appalling scandal have been denied.

Eligibility

In line with the recommendations of the Inquiry's recommendations, we will compensate people who have been infected *and* affected by the infected blood scandal.

Those who have been directly or indirectly infected through NHS-supplied blood, blood products or tissue will be eligible to claim compensation under the Scheme, as will affected partners, parents, siblings, children and carers of a person with an eligible chronic infection, recognising the ramifications for loved ones where a person has been impacted by infected blood. Where a person with an eligible infection has tragically died, we will

ensure their personal representatives can claim compensation on behalf of the deceased's estate.¹

Infected Blood Compensation Authority

The Infected Blood Compensation Authority will be formally established in law as soon as the Victims and Prisoners Bill receives Royal Assent, but we are not waiting for this to get underway. The body is up and running in shadow form already – interim Chief Executive David Foley is in post and working rapidly to get the system for delivering compensation up and running.

Today, I am also pleased to announce the appointment of Sir Robert Francis KC as interim chair of the Infected Blood Compensation Authority. This is an interim role for a limited time period and there will be an open competition for a permanent chair in due course, with input from the infected blood community. Sir Robert brings a wealth of experience, as author of the Study on Compensation, which - together with the Inquiry's second interim report - has been invaluable to the Government. I hope his appointment as interim chair will provide reassurance of the Government's intention to move forward swiftly to people who are infected and affected.

Interim Payments

I also recognise that for many people who are living with chronic infections, there is an urgent need for money now, ahead of the establishment of the full scheme. The Government acknowledged this by making interim payments of £100,000 in October 2022, and the Government will now provide an additional £210,000 interim payment to people living with an infection where they are registered with an Infected Blood Support Scheme. I am pleased to say that, starting in the summer, these interim payments will be delivered within 90 days so that they can reach those who need it most.

As set out in the passage of the Victims and Prisoners Bill, the Government also recognises that there are too many tragic cases where compensation has come far too late. The Government will pay interim payments of £100,000 to estates of the deceased infected people who were registered with existing or former support schemes. This will apply where previous interim payments have not already been made to infected individuals or their bereaved partners.²

Expert Group

Ministers have been clear that the Inquiry's recommendations should form the basis of any response. The recommendations have been central, and foundational, to the work of the Expert Group.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/infected-blood-compensation-scheme-summary>

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/infected-blood-interim-compensation-payment-scheme>

It is important that the Government has taken on board expertise from medical, legal, and social care professionals, to ensure that the compensation scheme is fair and just and implementable.

Today the Government will publish a number of documents to explain clearly the details of the Infected Blood Compensation scheme, this will include a summary report from the Expert Group and their names.

Engagement with the Infected Blood Community

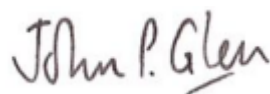
There will be a technical Government briefing for representatives from prominent charities, organisations, and support groups within the infected blood community across the United Kingdom. This will be held virtually and led by Cabinet Office officials. You will receive a personal invitation to this event in the coming week.

Sir Robert Francis KC, as Interim Chair of the Infected Blood Compensation Authority will undertake a validation exercise to seek views from the Infected Blood community on the proposed Infected Blood Compensation Scheme. The scope and duration of the exercise will necessarily be limited and take place over the course of June, to ensure the regulations are ready by the 3 month deadline as set in the Victims and Prisoners Bill. This will help the Government ensure the scheme is fit for purpose and will best serve those it is intended for.

Too many people, whether they are infected or affected, have seen their life chances taken away, watched loved ones die needlessly and endured the most terrible societal stigma which should never have happened. I hope the details of the compensation scheme published today will provide reassurance to you that we intend, as far as we are able, to provide recognition for the harms done. I hope we can remain in close engagement as we work towards establishing the Infected Blood Compensation Scheme.

I would be grateful if you would share the information in this letter with your members and community.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark 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**