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Contaminated Blood Scandal update

On Tuesday June 24th the group of MPs principally involved in helping victims of the scandal in their efforts to seek further consideration from the Government had a meeting with Mr Nick Seddon, the No 10 official tasked by the PM to take forward the work on his behalf.

The MPs present were Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP, Diana Johnson MP, Jason McCartney MP, and assistants to Nadhim Zahawi MP, and Jenny Willott MP.

The group now has 54 MPs as members, reflecting the success of their constituents contacting them and the commitment of MPs.

The polling and marketing research organisation YouGov has now agreed, at their own expense, to work with the MPs to provide a confidential channel of communication to sufferers. As discussed at the two recent public meetings, this enables the MPs to ask them directly about their experiences of the Trusts, which the All Party Group on Haemophilia is keen to do, and some of the options for changes for the future. We anticipate these contacts to start being made soon, and we hope that everyone who wishes to take part will respond, as their views are extremely important to us.

Mr Seddon emphasised to the MPs how personally engaged the PM was with the issue, and how he was working with Public Health Minister Jane Ellison on possible options for the future. This work was obviously related to all that had gone before, and the concerns that MPs had fed through, together with all the personal testimonies provided over many years. No decisions have yet been made. Feedback from contacts with sufferers in the next few months will be helpful, but we also continue to await the results of the Penrose Inquiry which has been delayed. MPs want to get on with their own work, but understand the immense interest in Penrose, which almost certainly must have an influence on Government after it reports. So in the meantime we will continue with our own work, and are keen to have some definite proposals and outcomes before the end of this calendar year if possible.