

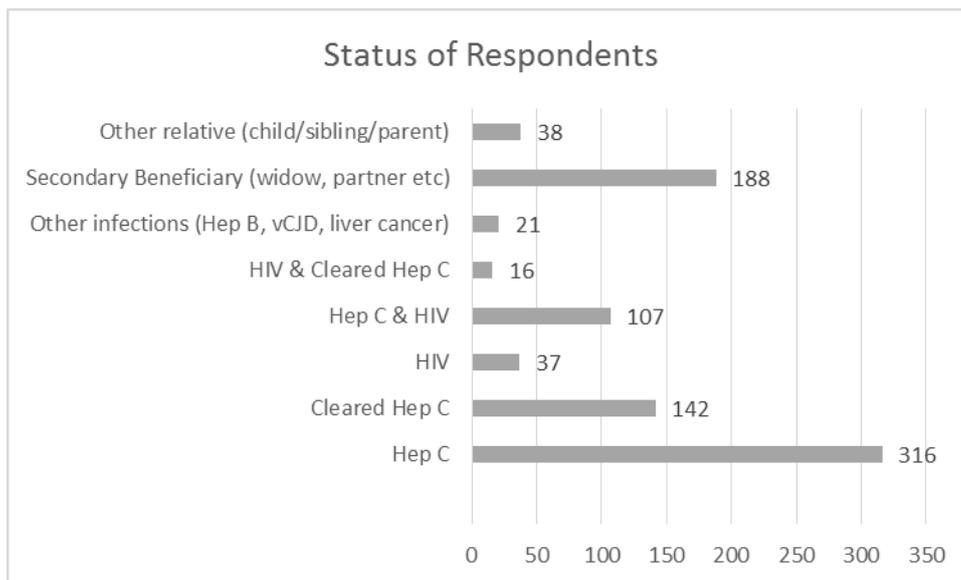


## Alistair Burt

Member of Parliament for North East Bedfordshire  
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA  
London office: Tel: 020 7219 8132 Fax: 020 7219 1740  
Bedfordshire office: Tel: 01234 314491 Fax: 01234 314691  
Website: [www.alistair-burt.co.uk](http://www.alistair-burt.co.uk) Email: [burta@parliament.uk](mailto:burta@parliament.uk)

### Contaminated Blood Update – November 2014

We are incredibly grateful to all those who took part in our recent survey. We had a large number of responses and wanted to take the chance to provide you with some information about the results; here is a brief snapshot:



Of the people that responded, when asked to choose three options they felt were most important in any new package of support being offered by the Government, the results were as follows:

Overall:

- 1) Availability of a lump sum payment, rather than ongoing payments, in certain cases
- 2) Ongoing financial support for widowed partners/spouses
- 3) A statutory inquiry

However, as we had anticipated, these results varied from different groups. Those infected with both HIV and Hepatitis C were more inclined to want to see the existing charitable structures abolished, while those infected with Hepatitis C gave more importance to priority access to new and/or more expensive medical treatments.

When asked whether it was felt that all beneficiaries should receive the same, all groups voted overwhelmingly in favour of this option as opposed to individual assessments to determine severity of infection. The results also showed that any ongoing payments should be made for a person's lifetime and then a set number of years after their death as the preferred option.

This is just a brief snapshot of some of the more easily quantifiable results; but we always said this was not a numbers game, and the most interesting data was in the final open ended question. All of the MPs involved in this current process are reading those responses to ensure we have a real sense of what it is that people need in order to achieve closure.

The next steps is to take this information to Number 10 and the Department of Health. We are doing this at the moment and we know their own work continues to progress in looking for a solution; hopefully more information about this will shortly be received.

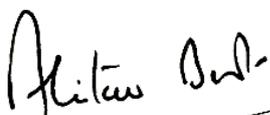
In the meantime, it is important to keep the campaign going and ensure your own MPs are engaged in this issue. We are suggesting a campaign 'fortnight' to help continue to raise awareness of this. We know it is not always easy for people to make it to meetings that are held in London, and we feel seeing your MP at their constituency surgery a much more effective way to ensure they are fully engaged and able to support you in this matter.

**We would like to ask you to contact your MP and ask to see them between the 8<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> December.** Try to go along and see them personally and explain why this is so important to you and your family. My office will send out an email to all MPs at the beginning of December and advise them of the campaign and provide them with some information about the background. Whether you have seen them many times before, or not at all, please use this opportunity to help maintain momentum in, what we hope, is the final stages of the campaign.

If you have not already contacted your MP, you can find their details online: <http://findyourmp.parliament.uk/>. Please be assured that any meeting or correspondence with your MP is confidential.

In addition to this work being carried out, the APPG on Haemophilia and Contaminated Blood, which is a group of MPs from all parties, has been conducting an inquiry into the Trusts using the information from the first part of the survey. The APPG will be meeting in December to finalise its report, which will be published in early January. They will be in touch with more detail shortly.

Kind regards



Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP