



Department
of Health

From Jackie Doyle-Price MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Care and Mental Health

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Mr Bill Wright
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9 AUG 2017

Dear Mr. Wright,

Thank you for your letter of 12 July to the Prime Minister about the inquiry into infected blood. As this is a health-related matter, your letter has been passed to the Department of Health for reply.

I welcome your thoughts on the inquiry and the areas where you feel it could add value for those in Scotland. Please be assured that these will be passed to the inquiry team, once it is established.

I recognise the concerns you raise that the previous inquiries and release of documents about this tragedy did not go far enough to provide the answers that those affected want. It is also helpful to understand your specific concerns about the Penrose Inquiry.

You have raised a number of questions about the establishment and nature of an inquiry. We have already taken steps to consult with Shona Robison, the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport, on the format and scope of an inquiry.

We explained to the Cabinet Secretary that our primary concern is to ensure that those affected are properly engaged in this process and have the opportunity to make their thoughts known before a final decision is made. We want to ensure that, whatever its format and scope, the inquiry is established in the interests of those affected. In view of any ongoing and future consultation, I cannot answer questions about the format, the power to compel or the chair at this time, although I do value the views you have offered, which will be duly considered.

We would also welcome any further views in writing about the approach that the inquiry should take. If those you represent would like to share their views they should send them to infectedbloodinquiry@dh.gsi.gov.uk.

I hope this reply is helpful.

Kind Regards,
pp. Sam Beckwith

JACKIE DOYLE-PRICE

Signed by the Private Secretary to avoid delay during Parliamentary recess