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Bill Wright
Chair
Haemophilia Scotland
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Your ref:
Our ref:
27th September 2018

Dear Bill,

Thank you for coming to meet me today. In the meeting I agreed to write to you urgently in relation to the UK Infected Blood Inquiry.

I want to confirm in writing that the Scottish Government does intend to apply for core participant status in the UK Inquiry. As I explained, while we are not yet registered as a core participant, I can assure you that we have always intended to become core participants in the Inquiry. It is very unfortunate if Counsel to the Inquiry gave people the impression that the Scottish Government did not intend to participate as this is not correct and I am sorry for any distress or misunderstandings this has caused for yourself and the Scottish people who are affected. I also regret that we did not communicate more with you about the reasons for the fact we have not yet sought core participation; we agreed to make sure you are kept informed on developments regarding the Inquiry in future.

I can assure you that the Scottish Government has already been working hard to contribute to the Inquiry, for example by writing to NHS Boards to ensure they do not destroy any documents which may be relevant and working with the National Records of Scotland to locate documents and file lists so that these can be provided to the Inquiry.

Therefore, whilst we are still seeking to iron out some points with the Cabinet Office, we do expect to seek core participant status soon. As you know, we have been discussing points regarding the fact that the terms of reference are slightly different from what we thought had been originally agreed in earlier discussions and regarding financial support for the Scottish Government and NHS bodies. However, I must emphasise that it's not all about money and that we do largely welcome the Inquiry's terms of reference.

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot



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I hope this letter gives you some reassurance that the Scottish Government does take the Inquiry seriously and is, like you, keen to ensure that it can help give people infected in Scotland and their families more answers about what happened and why.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Fitzpatrick". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

JOE FITZPATRICK