



10 DOWNING STREET
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7 March 2019

THE PRIME MINISTER

Dear Ms Wright and Mr Rice

Thank you both for your letter of 11 October 2018 about the Infected Blood Inquiry. I am sorry it has taken so long to reply but I understand my office has been in touch with you in the intervening period.

The moving testimonies that were given during the Commemoration Ceremony last September brought home the terrible human cost of this scandal in a way that was both dignified and powerful.

The commemoration also emphasised the importance of the independent Inquiry. This tragedy has touched all parts of the UK. It is vital that the Scottish Government is able to play a full part in the Inquiry. I am therefore pleased that the Scottish Government applied for, and on 1 November 2018 was granted, Core Participant status, and that, along with the UK's other administrations, it can offer its full support to the Inquiry.

I am very grateful to you and all the representatives of campaign groups who took the trouble to meet Jackie Doyle-Price, the Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, on 21 January to discuss the issue of financial support. I know the Minister found the meeting both moving and instructive, and part of what she hopes will be a continuing and useful dialogue.

I am pleased that David Lidington, Minister for the Cabinet Office and sponsoring Minister for the Inquiry, was also able to attend the meeting, and hear the powerful testimony and evidence given by you and the other campaigners. This Inquiry is a priority for the Government. The victims of this tragedy who have endured so much pain and hardship deserve answers – it is why I set up the Inquiry.

I will continue to follow the work of the Inquiry and please stay in touch with my office if there are any further issues you wish to raise. For too long, your voices went unheard and I want to reassure you that all those infected and affected will be listened to.

The Minister for the Cabinet Office will continue to take a close interest in the Inquiry and ensure that it has all the resources it needs to complete its work quickly, thoroughly and transparently, with the people infected and affected at the centre of the Inquiry's work.

Your sincerely
