



10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

10 May 2019

THE PRIME MINISTER

*Dear Mr Wright*

Thank you for your letter, with a number of co-signatories, of 8 May on infected blood.


As I said when I wrote to Clive Smith and Liz Carroll on 27 March, I am very grateful to all of the campaign groups that took the trouble to meet Jackie Doyle-Price MP, the Minister for Mental Health, Inequalities and Suicide Prevention, and the Right Honourable David Lidington MP, the sponsoring Minister for the Inquiry.

The infected blood scandal has touched all parts of the UK, and it is vital that the independent public Inquiry is able to reach the truth, to provide the answers that the people infected and affected have waited so long for, and so clearly deserve. I am very pleased that the Inquiry's witness hearings are now under way, and that the voices of those who have been affected by this tragedy are being heard. I am also pleased that the Inquiry is holding hearings throughout the UK, reflecting the national impact of the tragedy and enabling those infected and affected across the nation to describe their experiences.

It is also clearly right that the thousands of individuals and families affected by the scandal are properly and equitably supported. The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) responded to the meeting with campaigners by announcing a major uplift in financial support available to infected and affected beneficiaries of the infected blood support scheme in England. The Government is committed to providing those infected and affected with a fair and transparent support scheme, and addressing the disparity in financial support across the different parts of the UK. Discussions with the Devolved Administrations are now under way, and DHSC and Cabinet Office officials are arranging to meet their Northern Irish, Scottish and Welsh counterparts in the next week to discuss a way forward.

We will work quickly and aim to make an announcement as soon as possible. In the meantime, it would be very helpful to continue the dialogue from the 21 January meeting, and officials will be in touch with you to arrange for a further meeting with Ministers as soon as we are able to provide an update on progress. Please be assured I will stay closely updated as this work develops, and I have asked my office to stay in touch with you.

I would be grateful if you could share this response with the co-signatories of your letter.

Yours sincerely  


Mr Bill Wright