



The Rt. Hon Boris Johnson MP  
Prime Minister  
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1 Aug 2019

Dear Prime Minister,

#### INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY AND SUPPORT ACROSS THE UK

We congratulate you on your appointment as Prime Minister, at a time when the UK's largest official Inquiry is taking place into what has been termed the worst treatment disaster in the NHS. We write to you as the leads of 11 campaign groups or charities, and as individuals affected by treatment with infected blood and blood products.

The Government has already told the Inquiry of their acceptance that things went wrong: that things happened that should not have happened. One person dies every 96 hours from the consequences of infected blood and blood products so you'll understand that time is not on our side. You will be aware that there is Parliamentary support for compensation now for people infected through NHS blood and blood products, rather than waiting for the conclusion of the Inquiry.

So far interim financial support has been paid at different levels across the UK depending on where someone lives, rather than compensation. Your predecessor took some steps to respond to the Inquiry Chair's call in October 2018 for decisive action about access to (and variations in) the interim financial support. We attach the 6 principles we all support. There remain 3 simple steps to address the significant concerns UK-wide about access to (and variations in) interim financial support:

- Scotland is the only nation to provide regular non means-tested support for widows. England, Northern Ireland and Wales should include all widows in their schemes, in recognition of the irrevocable impact on their lives.
- Wales is the only nation to provide a tailored welfare and benefits advice service and a commitment to providing psychological support – this should also be offered in England, Northern Ireland and Scotland.
- Since 30 April this year payments in England for the infected have been significantly higher than the rest of the UK. Action must be taken urgently to uplift payments to the amounts asked for in the proposals and to level up the payments across the other nations.

Money can never repair the damage that infected blood and blood products have done, but people with severely compromised health should not be forced to count every penny because of illnesses contracted during treatment by the NHS. Our treatment, care and support should not depend on which hospital we live near either. There is a systemic lack of medical monitoring and support of this community. Too many people die too early because of shortfalls in healthcare.

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We believe you and the Chancellor to be willing to cut through any administrative and political obstacles and to do the right thing for the people we represent. We are ready to meet and assist you.

We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Jackie  
Britton

Bloodloss  
Families

Andy  
Evans

Tainted Blood

Su  
Gorman

Tainted Blood

Simon  
Hamilton

Haemophilia  
Northern  
Ireland

Lestey  
Lawrence

Contaminated  
Blood Women

Adrian  
Melson

Birchgrove  
Group

Clive  
Smith

The  
Haemophilia  
Society

David  
Thomas

Haemophilia  
Wales

Michelle  
Tolley

Contaminated  
Wholeblood  
UK

Clair  
Watson

Positive  
Women

Bill  
Wright

Haemophilia  
Scotland

CC'd

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### **Annex: Principles for financial support**

To alleviate hardship, so that we can live rather than just exist during the Inquiry as we cope with its inevitable psychological toll, people infected and affected need:

- **No reliance on means testing and income top-ups:** we need clarity not charity about our financial position
- **No geographic variation:** as the then Prime Minister said in July 2017 when she announced the Inquiry ‘thousands of patients expected the world-class care our NHS is famous for, but they were failed’, and now the variations in support compound the injustice and unfairness we have suffered
- **No bereaved partner, bereaved parent or carer should suffer financial hardship:** we want to know that those who have cared for us will be financially secure if we don’t live to see the end of the Inquiry
- **People infected who are also bereaved should be recognised in their own right as both an infected and a bereaved person:** our suffering should no longer be minimised
- **People bereaved as children and people infected who were previously refused assistance should not be forgotten:** we all suffer the impact of what happened
- **No-one should be worse off and no-one infected should receive less than someone affected** as a result of any changes agreed

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