

CLOSING WORDS FOR INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY – THURSDAY 2nd FEBRUARY

On Thursday the Infected Blood Inquiry, Chaired by Sir Brian Langstaff, will hear a closing oral submission on behalf of Haemophilia Scotland, the Scottish Infected Blood Forum and hundreds of individual core participants from Scotland who remain living following infection with HIV and/or Hepatitis.

The closing submission by Jamie Dawson KC, brings together 5 years of evidence given to the inquiry by a wide range of witnesses from patients, the bereaved, medical and other health staff, government and others. The Inquiry has been the first opportunity to expose the full facts of what happened in the infected blood disaster. It has exposed how individuals who turned to the NHS for help received in return infections which destroyed lives.

The oral statement is but the tip of the evidence received by the Inquiry, but provides a real focus on the issues raised on our behalf by our legal team at Thompsons, Solicitors and our Advocate Jamie Dawson KC. It supports a 1300-page written submission. It is in itself an extraordinary piece of work.

<https://www.infectedbloodinquiry.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/SUBS0000064.pdf>

Speaking before the conclusion of the hearing, Bill Wright, Chair of Haemophilia Scotland said:

“What the submissions expose, is that on top of the loss of life, pain, hurt and damage to many hundreds of Scots, more could have been done in response. The hurt, pain and sorrow experienced by those infected and affected have been repeatedly compounded by government, its agencies and some doctors by avoiding the truth, keeping decisions and documents secret and failing to respond to campaigners’ queries and quest for answers.

We feel that finally through the work of the Inquiry we have been able to expose the injustice of the infected blood disaster. The unique circumstances experienced by the victims spread across Scotland and the UK have been compounded by the decades of denial, government intransigence and blocking exposure of medical and public health failures.



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We recognise the tremendous amount of work undertaken by the Inquiry Chair and Inquiry team and now look to reading the final Inquiry Report when it is published later this year. It is our sincere hope that the report will offer a platform for moving forward to put right the injustice suffered over decades.

It has been an exhausting and complex process. Those who have campaigned for many years for this inquiry (many no longer with us) can now see a conclusion to the process in sight.

It is our sincere desire and belief that the Inquiry report will offer a platform to move forward more positively and by engaging fully with it we offer positive ideas for a better future for those impacted and to see improvement in the healthcare systems generally."

ENDS

For further information contact Bill Wright 07785-510456.

Jamie Dawson's oral statement starting at 10.00am on Thursday, 2nd February can be seen on YouTube during and after the hearing.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmFkDoDeSsnYVZtNqo3150q> .



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