

The Eric Liddell Centre
15 Morningside Road
Edinburgh. EH10 4DP
T. 07970787630
hello@haemophilia.scot
www.haemophilia.scot



20th May 2025

Rt Hon Sir Keir Starmer KCB KB MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AB

Dear Prime Minister,

Infected Blood and Blood Products

We know that you are receiving a deputation from the Haemophilia Society and kindred organisations like ours on Tuesday 20th May at Downing Street. We are unable to be present on that date, but would wish to add our voice to the concerns to be raised with you.

A year ago, as Leader of the Opposition, you apologised to those infected and affected by the contaminated blood scandal and told them: 'Politics itself has failed you.'

Twelve months on from the publication of the Infected Blood Inquiry's devastating report, there remains deep concern from the contaminated blood community that politics is continuing to fail them.

The Infected Blood Inquiry heard at its reconvened hearings on 7 and 8 May 2025 that the community's voice was absent when the Infected Blood Compensation Scheme was drafted. The resulting scheme contains fundamental flaws, which could and would have been foreseen if those at the centre of the scandal had been involved. It is regrettable that the errors of the past have not been mended by the government's response on compensation.

Everyone is agreed that there is no time to waste. It's crucial that government gets it right now. Campaigners, charities and other stakeholders must be positively involved in the making of very necessary amendments to the Compensation Scheme.

On 7 May the Minister for the Cabinet Office made a public commitment to the Infected Blood Inquiry that he would review aspects of the compensation framework. We are keen for that to happen as soon as possible with full involvement of people infected and affected by contaminated blood and blood products.



Established 2012. Scottish Charity Number SC044298



The areas to be reviewed include ensuring newly bereaved partners continue to receive ongoing support payments, creating a potential supplementary route for affected people, a review of the liability window and cut-off dates for HIV infections, inclusion of people on the 'Special Category Mechanism' and its equivalents in the supplementary route and giving the Infected Blood Compensation Authority (IBCA) a discretion to consider individual circumstances in claims for unethical research.

While the commitment above is welcome, there remain fundamental problems with the compensation scheme which we urge the government to address. These will be fully set out in the written submissions which our organisations have made, or will be making, to the Infected Blood Inquiry at the end of this week. We urge you and your colleagues to consider these most earnestly and ask yourselves, how would you feel if we were referring to your loved ones. Also, how reasonable is it to say the bulk of the infected will be paid compensation by the end of 2027 and the bulk of the affected by 2029?

The infected blood community looks to the present government to act swiftly in removing the uncertainty faced by the community and in putting the full weight of its political influence to bare so that justice can at last be served.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Dearden', written in a cursive style.

John Dearden
Chair

cc John Swinney, MSP, First Minister for Scotland