



Rt Hon. Nick Thomas-Symonds MP
His Majesty's Paymaster General
Cabinet Office 70 Whitehall London
SW1A 2AS

14th May 2025

Dear Haemophilia Scotland,

As you know, the Infected Blood Inquiry published a report with 12 recommendations on 20 May 2024. In the Government's initial response to the report on 17 December 2024, I committed to publishing the Government's full response to the report within a year, as recommended by the Inquiry. To that end, I am writing to confirm that today I am publishing the Government's full response on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk), and making an accompanying oral statement to the House of Commons.

I recognise that for many in the community, the Government's actions are coming far too late. There is nothing that can put right the damage that inaction by multiple previous governments has done, and it is not my intention for this statement to diminish that. My priority now is focusing on delivering meaningful change to ensure that scandals such as infected blood, and so many others, cannot be allowed to happen again.

The UK and devolved governments have accepted the Inquiry's recommendations in full or accepted them in principle, in accordance with the latest evidence-based care and clinical guidelines. Implementation is underway across government, ALBs and healthcare settings. Where recommendations are accepted in principle, we have sought to explain the rationale for doing so; balancing agreement of the spirit of the recommendations with the need to avoid unintended consequences. Some will be subject to future DHSC spending decisions.

I recognise that much of the community's focus remains on compensation. I remain absolutely steadfast in my determination for payments to be made as quickly as possible. I am pleased that the Infected Blood Compensation Authority (IBCA) is continuing to expand its service to invite more claimants, but I have also been clear that the speed of claims must also increase.

I am also pleased to share with you that Sir Robert Francis KC, will continue in his role as the interim Chair of IBCA for a further 18 months, until 22 November 2026. The Government will hold a recruitment campaign to appoint a Chair of the Infected Blood Compensation Authority, with input from the Infected Blood community, in 2026.

Last week, I attended an oral hearing of the Inquiry to give evidence. I was incredibly moved by the powerful testimony of those who have been impacted by this scandal, and I am clear that the Government will continue to cooperate with the Inquiry as it makes its forthcoming report on the delivery of compensation. At the evidence session, I committed to considering changes to the scheme to address the concerns that were raised in the course of the

hearing. I am clear that my priority is to ensure that there is no further delay to paying compensation. I am grateful for your continued engagement on this important issue.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Thomas-Symonds', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

**RT HON NICK THOMAS-SYMONDS MP
MINISTER FOR THE CABINET OFFICE
HIS MAJESTY'S PAYMASTER GENERAL**