

# Blood: Contamination

Health written question – answered on 24th October 2013  
(/wrans/?d=2013-10-24).



**Tom Clarke**

Labour, Coatbridge, Chryston and Bellshill

To ask the Secretary of State (/glossary/?gl=23) for Health (a) how many and (b) what proportion of people infected by contaminated blood through NHS (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NHS>) blood transfusions have since died.

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(Citation: HC Deb, 24 October 2013, c248W)



**Jane Ellison**

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health

Approximately 100 people were infected with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HIV>)) in the United Kingdom as a result of treatment with NHS

(<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NHS>) blood transfusions, before a screening test for donated blood became available in 1985. As at 30 September 2013, 17 are known to be alive and registered with MFET Ltd, which makes payments in respect of infection with HIV, which implies that around 83% have died.

Approximately, a further 1,200 people were infected with HIV as a result of treatment for inherited bleeding disorders, primarily haemophilia, with plasma-derived clotting factor products, before safer products became available in 1985. As at 30 September 2013, 353 are known to be alive and registered with MFET Ltd, which implies that around 71% have died.

In relation to hepatitis C, the Government's 2010 'Review of the Support Available to Individuals infected with hepatitis C and/or HIV by NHS-supplied blood transfusions or blood products and their dependants' estimated that approximately 28,000 individuals were infected in the UK as a result of NHS blood transfusions before a screening test for donated blood became available in 1991. A copy of the report has already been placed in the Library (/glossary/?gl=252). As at 30 September 2013, 2,442 of those individuals had received at least one payment from the Skipton Fund Ltd in respect of chronic infection with hepatitis C. Of these individuals, the Skipton Fund has been notified of 320 deaths, which represents approximately 13% of the total number of individuals who have received at least one payment.

The UK ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_UK](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_UK)) Haemophilia Centres Doctors' Organisation estimated in 2011 that a further 4,689 people with inherited bleeding disorders were exposed to hepatitis C through treatment with NHS supplied plasma-derived clotting factor products, before safer products became available in 1985. As at 30 September 2013, 2,648



of those individuals had received at least one payment from the Skipton Fund Ltd in respect of chronic infection with hepatitis C. Of these individuals, the Skipton Fund has been notified of 665 deaths, which represents approximately 25% of the total number of individuals who have received at least one payment.

However, the Skipton Fund does not routinely receive death notifications in respect of those who do not receive annual payments. There is no other information on those who may be infected by hepatitis C as a result of NHS-supplied blood or blood products held centrally, from which the Department can make a more accurate estimate.

#### Does this answer the above question?

2 people think so

1 person thinks not

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