

GRO-A

By e-mail.

Thank you for your e-mail of 9 November to the Secretary of State for Health regarding government support for those affected by contaminated blood. I have been asked to respond as the Minister responsible for Public Health.

Your account of the impact of HIV on your father and your family is deeply moving. I am sincerely sorry that he, and thousands others were infected with HIV and hepatitis C by contaminated blood and blood products, and I am committed to looking again at some aspects of the support that the Government currently provides for those affected. I attach a copy of the terms of reference of the review currently being undertaken.

Whilst I cannot comment at the moment about the likely outcome, I intend to make an announcement by the end of the year.

Anne Milton

Terms of Reference

1. To review the following aspects of provision and support for those affected with HIV and/or hepatitis C via NHS-supplied contaminated blood and blood products.
 - a. to review the level of ex-gratia payments made to those infected with hepatitis C, including:
 - the consideration of financial support for their dependants;
 - the eligibility date for entry to the current scheme;
 - comparison with the ex-gratia payments made in the UK to those infected with HIV (and their dependants);

- b. to review the mechanisms by which the ex-gratia payments for HIV and hepatitis C are made;
 - c. to consider the provision of insurance for those infected, (having regard to similar access available to other groups) including:
 - life assurance cover;
 - mortgage protection cover;
 - travel insurance;
 - d. to consider the issue of prescription charging for those infected;
 - e. to review the provision of, and access to, nursing and other care services in the community for those infected.
2. To develop options arising from the above, and make recommendations to Ministers for their consideration by the end of the year.