



Royal Courts of Justice
2nd Floor, Westblock
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Infected Blood Inquiry

I am writing to introduce myself as Chair of the Infected Blood Public Inquiry. I know that you have been waiting for action on this tragedy for many years, and thought it might be helpful if I shared some early thoughts about how I would like the Inquiry to progress.

The first, and most important, point is that I am determined to put people at the heart of the Inquiry. I am aiming for an inclusive and transparent Inquiry process, and as part of that I expect that the Inquiry team will go out to hear from those who have been affected across the United Kingdom.

It is extremely important that I find the right balance between the Inquiry being thorough, and not taking unreasonably long to do its work. Sadly, a number of people affected have died since the decision to hold an Inquiry was announced and I am conscious of the need for an appropriate pace of work.

Developing the terms of reference is the first stage in identifying the areas on which the Inquiry will focus. It is too early to anticipate those terms of reference but in broad outline I expect the Inquiry to investigate what happened, why it continued happening, the aftermath of the events (including the adequacy of support given to people affected) and how such a tragedy can be prevented from happening again.

The Inquiry team has just launched a consultation on the terms of reference which you can find on the Inquiry website www.infectedbloodinquiry.org.uk and I very much hope you will contribute. The closing date is 26th April and I will then need some time to reflect on the views expressed before making my recommendations to the Minister.

Inquiries go through a number of phases, some of which are highly visible to the public (such as hearing evidence from witnesses) and some of which are less so, for instance when working through documentary evidence. Once the terms of reference are agreed by the Minister for the Cabinet Office, I expect there to be an initial phase of evidence gathering, with oral hearings not taking place until a later point. It may seem as if nothing is happening, but be assured a huge amount of work will be performed: if the Inquiry is to report within a reasonable time, time spent in preparation is critical.

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I have made it clear to my Inquiry team that I expect them to ensure that those affected by this tragedy understand what is happening at the different stages.

I look forward to meeting the challenges the Inquiry will bring, and repeat what I said when appointed: that I hope to provide much needed answers to victims and their families across the United Kingdom.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian Langstaff".

Sir Brian Langstaff