



Rt Hon Michael Ellis QC MP
HM Paymaster General &
Minister for the Cabinet Office
Cabinet Office 70 Whitehall London
SW1A 2AS

Sir Brian Langstaff
Chair of the Infected Blood Inquiry

16 August 2022

Dear Sir Brian,

I am grateful to you for your interim report delivered to me on 29 July.

I am profoundly aware of the terrible suffering experienced by the victims of infected blood over many years, and the urgent need to address the financial uncertainty faced by many. It was for this reason that this Government commissioned an independent review undertaken by Sir Robert Francis QC. I am grateful to Sir Robert for his detailed consideration of the issues and to all those who gave evidence to him and also to your Inquiry. I am very conscious of the toll on individuals of giving such evidence.

Among Sir Robert's recommendations was that immediate interim compensation payments of £100,000 be made to current infected beneficiaries, some of whom will, tragically, not live to see the conclusion of the public inquiry. Following Sir Robert's evidence to your Inquiry on 11 and 12 July, you delivered your interim recommendation that:

“(1) An interim payment should be paid, without delay, to all those infected and all bereaved partners currently registered on UK infected blood support schemes, and those who register between now and the inception of any future scheme;

(2) The amount should be no less than £100,000, as recommended by Sir Robert Francis QC.”

I can confirm that Her Majesty's Government accepts your recommendation in full.

This is a priority. The Government recognises that many of the beneficiaries will tragically not see the conclusion of your Inquiry. It is our intention to make those interim compensation payments by the end of October 2022.

The Government will continue to consider Sir Robert's broader recommendations, so that we are ready to respond to your recommendations, when your Inquiry concludes its work - as was intended when the study was commissioned. I would like to thank you and your team for the

very important work you are conducting, and assure you of the Government's continued support of the Inquiry.

I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Minister for Public Health, Women's Health and Sport, the Minister of Health and the Deputy Minister for Social Services .

Yours sincerely,

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

Rt Hon Michael Ellis QC MP
HM Paymaster General & Minister for the Cabinet Office