Professor Deborah Christie

Dear Professor Christie

Re: The Infected Blood Inquiry

1. I am writing on behalf of the Chair to the Infected Blood Inquiry, Sir Brian Langstaff, with instructions for the preparation of a report by the group of psychosocial experts (‘the group’).

2. The purpose of the report is to provide evidence about matters within the expertise of the group that may assist the Chair in fulfilling the Inquiry’s Terms of Reference. I set out in more detail below the topics and questions that the Chair asks you to address at this stage. The report will be provided to the Core Participants to the Inquiry and will be published on the Inquiry’s website.

3. We remind you that we are not asking you to consider or comment on the experiences of any particular individual.

4. As before, the topics and questions set out below are for the most part framed in broad terms, with the aim of allowing the group to approach matters as you see fit.
Further supplemental instructions

5. Further to your reports dated January and September 2020, please consider the psychosocial impacts on children bereaved in consequence of the use of infected blood and blood products. In particular the:

a. impact of stigma on the children of HIV-positive parents during the 1980s and 1990s

b. impact on children of their parent's terminal illness being hidden from them

c. impact on children who grow up without a father and/or mother. Please explain the impacts of age when bereaved, and gender, as far as they are understood

d. impact of childhood bereavement on education, and on future employment

e. psychological disorders that can arise from childhood bereavement

May I thank you and the other group members once again for agreeing in principle to assist the Inquiry. If there is anything that I can do to assist or there are any aspects of these instructions that you would like to clarify then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely,

Moore Flannery
Infected Blood Inquiry, Secretariat.