

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY
WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS ON BEHALF OF THE CABINET OFFICE

1. The hearings held on 7 and 8 May 2025 allowed for matters to be raised by people who are infected and affected as a result of the Infected Blood Scandal, and provided the Government, Officials and the Infected Blood Compensation Authority the opportunity to set out the work it has been doing.
2. The Cabinet Office reiterates its commitment to assist the Inquiry and since the hearings has provided it with further information and documents.
3. The Government is committed to paying full and fair compensation to persons infected and affected as swiftly as possible.
4. During the hearings, the Minister for the Cabinet Office (the Rt Hon Nick Thomas-Symonds MP) made it clear that there were matters which the Government was willing to consider in light of any recommendations from the Inquiry. These included:
 - Eligibility for the unethical research award.¹
 - The 31 March 2025 cut-off date, beyond which people will not be able to register with support schemes as a bereaved partner.²
 - Expanding the supplementary route for the affected.³
 - The position of persons infected with HIV before 1 January 1982.⁴
 - The Special Category Mechanism (and its equivalents).⁵
5. Mr Thomas-Symonds said that the Government would be willing to consider changes to the Infected Blood Compensation Scheme in these areas provided that they would not cause further undue delay to the payment of compensation.⁶
6. It is hoped that this position is consistent with the Inquiry's intended approach as set out in paragraph 24 of CTI's Note dated 16.4.25:

“These provisions having been enacted in primary legislation by Parliament, it is not the Inquiry's intention to seek to revisit them or to explore alternative legislative measures that could have been enacted by Parliament but were not. The Inquiry also recognises that a fundamental revision of the scheme, effectively going back to square

¹ 7 May 2025 pages 126-127

² 7 May 2025 pages 145-146

³ 7 May 2025 page 148

⁴ 7 May 2025 pages 149-153

⁵ 7 May 2025 pages 165-167

⁶ 7 May 2025 pages 126-127, 148, 170, 183 and 186

one, would, at this stage, be likely only to cause further, very substantial delay to the receipt of compensation. Accordingly, the Inquiry's primary focus will be to consider whether there are actions which could now be taken, within the broad architecture of the scheme as enacted, to address the principal concerns that have been raised."

7. The Cabinet Office looks forward to the Inquiry's further report and recommendations.