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Regarding the further submissions on a proposal to help establish the most appropriate way of achieving a scheme of prioritisation which both is fair and commands the greatest trust, I refer to my written statement No: WITN2050115 of 23 February 2025, paragraph no 34 and suggest this as a way forward which avoids the need for an overcomplicated prioritisation process, which could be delivered quickly and would be within the 11.8 billion already set aside. Our proposal would also mean our community would receive their compensation before yet more people sadly die.

The overly burdensome and complex criteria being applied to all mono Hepatitis victims should be removed with immediate effect. This would allow a much fairer and straightforward compensation scheme for the majority, which would also vastly speed up the process needed to deliver compensation to both the infected and affected communities, as the removal of stages and criteria would significantly cut down on the amount of time and manpower needed to assess all Hepatitis claims. CBC have carried out research which would offer a swift and much fairer solution to the compensation model as currently set out by Government. This will involve removing the unnecessarily complex, onerous and discriminatory stages/criteria being applied to all infected mono Hepatitis victims. Government have committed 11.8 billion in the budget for compensation and they have also said they will pay 'whatever it takes'. CBC are aware that there are approximately 3,545 living infected beneficiaries of all cohorts registered with the four UK IBSS schemes. If the full cohort of 3,545 were paid a minimum of 2.4 million (an average figure which we believe has been allocated to the mono HIV cohort) through a revised Core route, (which would total approximately 8.5 billion) this would not only allow the majority of infected individuals to receive their compensation without

going through the torturous process of applying through the current IBCA model, it would also mean the vast majority would choose this level of compensation as opposed to staying on the schemes, this would also allow us to become free of our abuser. For those that feel they won't be fully compensated through our proposed Core route model, a revised and fairer Supplementary route should be the option. CBC's suggested model would allow BSS to make payments to every infected person registered with their schemes within days, if not weeks, thereby drastically reducing the length of time it would take to compensate all the remaining cohorts listed in paragraph 23 above, who could then be processed far sooner than would otherwise be the case. This solution would remove the bottleneck of infected claimants registered with the schemes as well as the need for IBCA to hire several hundred staff which would be required over the next 7 years to deal with the complexity of the Government's current compensation model. This would also have the benefit of speeding up the process for Estate claims as they would not have to prove which specific stage their loved one was in. This would also remove the need to deal with the many potential court actions that will no doubt be forthcoming from beneficiaries who have been denied their right to meaningful compensation. The overall benefit of this model would be that both the infected and affected would stand a far better chance of being compensated before they die. If Government fail to do this, it will mean our community will have to wait many years for these time-consuming and onerous assessments to be carried out, which will mean many more people will die before ever receiving the compensation they need and deserve. Too many people have already died without seeing justice.

When Cabinet office Minister Nick Thomas-Symonds gave oral evidence on 7 May 2025 he made the following statements:

*"The Government remains committed to co-operating with the inquiry and acting on its recommendations."*

*"Open to considering how we can improve the Governments actions to ensure we can deliver justice to victims of this devastating scandal."*

*"Learning and acting on the mistakes of the past and where there is more to do, this Government will do it."*

*"It is absolutely vital that individual suffering and circumstances are reflected in the awards made."*

CBC now hold Nick Thomas-Symmonds to his statements in the hope he will agree to make positive changes to what have been disastrous compensation proposals for our community since 21<sup>st</sup> May 2024.

Yours sincerely

**GRO-C**

Glenn Wilkinson

For and on behalf of Contaminated Blood Campaign (CBC)