



Aldwych House  
2nd Floor, 71-91 Aldwych  
London  
WC2B 4HN

25 February 2026

## **Infected Blood Inquiry**

It is almost eight years since I wrote to introduce myself as Chair of the Infected Blood Inquiry. It is now time for me to explain why the Inquiry's work will come to an end on 31 March 2026.

The Inquiry Report was published in May 2024. None of us anticipated that another report would be necessary, but that autumn the Inquiry began to receive increasingly concerned communications from individuals, organisations and legal representatives regarding the compensation scheme. As a consequence, the Inquiry held further hearings and published the Additional Report on Compensation.

In response, the Minister for the Cabinet Office, Nick Thomas-Symonds, told Parliament: *"I would like to quote directly from Sir Brian's report, where he ends by stating that 'truly involving people infected and affected in how the state recognises their losses would start to turn the page on the past'. He is absolutely right. Our focus as we move forward must be working together with the community, with IBCA, and indeed with each other in this House to not only deliver justice to all those impacted, but essentially, to restore trust in the state to people who have been let down too many times."*

There has been progress. This includes IBCA consulting on how they should implement the Inquiry's recommendations, the Government's public consultation on

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Aldwych House, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 71-91 Aldwych, London WC2B 4HN  
contact@infectedbloodinquiry.org.uk  
Freephone 08081691377

changes to the compensation scheme, the first of IBCA's quarterly reports summarising concerns and issues raised by people infected and affected and IBCA's response, IBCA's Board meeting in public for the first time, the appointment of the IBCA Community Advisory Panel, and the Technical Expert Group advising the Government being permitted – indeed, asked – to engage where relevant with people infected and affected.

I also know that many are still waiting for the long overdue recognition of their losses that compensation represents, and that many are waiting for the Government's response to the public consultation on changes to the compensation scheme. The High Court has also been asked to determine the correct interpretation of the definition of Hepatitis C Level 3 in the Regulations.

Why, then, is the Inquiry ceasing its work now? I said in the Additional Report on Compensation that my expectation was that the Inquiry's work would be complete once there was a suitable mechanism for people's concerns to be raised. A public inquiry is defined by its terms of reference and, under the Inquiries Act 2005, must end once those terms of reference have been fulfilled. Although I understand why many might wish it to be so, it is not the role of a public inquiry to monitor or police the actions of Government once the terms of reference have been met.

You can read more about my reasoning in my fuller statement published on the Inquiry website, in which I also say that I cannot emphasise too strongly to Government and to IBCA that they must continue to learn from the lessons of the past and must ensure that there is a genuine, open-minded and meaningful ongoing dialogue with people infected and affected. Anything less runs a risk of perpetuating the mistakes of the past.

The Inquiry's work will be complete when The National Archives is satisfied with the archiving of the Inquiry's evidence. I anticipate that this will be on 31 March and I will

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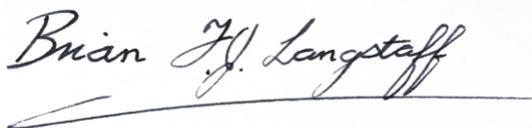
then write to the Minister for the Cabinet Office to inform him that the Inquiry has fulfilled its terms of reference.

Along with those of you who feel able to attend, I shall be attending the Infected Blood Memorial Service at St Paul's Cathedral on Tuesday 19 May. The date has been well chosen. The next day is the 20 May. That was the day in 2024 when the Inquiry Report was published. It was the day the nation stopped and recognised that this disaster was not an accident.

I said at the start of the Inquiry that I wished none of you had any need to be part of a public inquiry. After careful investigation of over five decades of decision-making, action and inaction, the true, horrifying, scale of what happened has been conclusively established. There were systemic, collective and individual failures to deal ethically, appropriately and quickly, with the risk of infections being transmitted in blood, with the infections when the risk materialised, and with the consequences for thousands of families. This should never be forgotten.

Last – but not least – I would like to acknowledge the courage of everyone who brought themselves to give evidence to the Inquiry whether orally, or in writing, or in talking privately to an intermediary.

With admiration and respect for this courage, and the way you have supported each other in what has been a long fight for justice, yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian J. Langstaff". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line that extends across the width of the signature.

Sir Brian Langstaff  
Chair, Infected Blood Inquiry

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