

Witness name: Sean Cavens

Statement No.: WITN1146006

Exhibits: WITN1146007 – WITN1146038

Dated: 28th August 2020

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

EXHIBIT WITN1146023



Cabinet Office

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Sean Cavens

By email:

GRO-C

FOI Reference: FOI329429

27/02/2020

Dear Sean Cavens

I refer to your request where you asked:

Under FOI I would like to know the following:

In a statement released on 28th January 2020, you advised “we are taking forward concerns about differing financial support schemes across the UK and will be discussing these with the devolved administrations as a matter of urgency and are doing all we can to achieve greater parity of support across the UK”.

Now, bear in mind, that previous statements released to this effect have shown that it hasn't been “a matter of urgency” due to only having 1 meeting on the 10th July 2019, my question under FOI is:

Define urgency? Have you engaged with the devolved administrations? If not, when do you plan to hold these meetings to “achieve greater parity of support”.

Officials are in discussion with their counterparts in the Devolved Administrations to achieve greater parity of support across the UK schemes. Payments have increased in Northern Ireland and discussions are ongoing to resolve as soon as possible the immediate and pressing disparity between the support schemes in England, Northern Ireland and Wales.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact the FOI Team quoting the reference number above.

WITN1146023_0002

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request or wish to request an internal review, you should write to:

Eirian Walsh Atkins
Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2AS

email: foi-team@cabinetoffice.gov.uk

You should note that the Cabinet Office will not normally accept an application for internal review if it is received more than two months after the date that the reply was issued. If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by Cabinet Office. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely

GRO-C

FOI Team
Cabinet Office