

# Dad infected with HIV after NHS tainted blood scandal slams cruel Tory payments cuts for victims

One of the last survivors of the '70s and '80s scandal, Alan Burgess says that if they cuts go ahead, he'll stop taking life-saving drugs

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One of the last survivors of an NHS blood scandal has vowed to stop taking life-saving medication [over planned Tory cuts](#) that will leave victims up to £7,000 a year worse off.

Dad-of-three Alan Burgess was among 7,500 people infected with HIV and hepatitis C in the 70s and 80s through transfusions and haemophilia treatment.

It later emerged some of the tainted blood used was taken from high-risk prisoners and prostitutes.

Now Alan, 58, says he will have nothing left to live for if Tory plans to cap annual payments to victims at just £15,000 go ahead.

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It works out to an extra £260 a year for most of them—but if planned cuts to other payments they already get are made it will leave many sufferers thousands of pounds a year worse off.

Adding to Alan's fury is news that victims of the blood scandal in Scotland are to receive annual payments up to £37,000, more than doubling existing ones.

He said: "We feel betrayed. I can't believe I am having to resort to a treatment strike. But I am prepared to die for this.

"What else can we do to get their attention? Of the 1,240 infected with HIV, only 263 survive."



**Alan, here with daughter Laura when she was a child, is a haemophilia sufferer who was given infected blood** (Image: Matt Sprake FameFlynet)

Alan says the proposal – which [the Tories say are supposed](#) to help victims – means his family will stand to lose up £4,700 a year if the

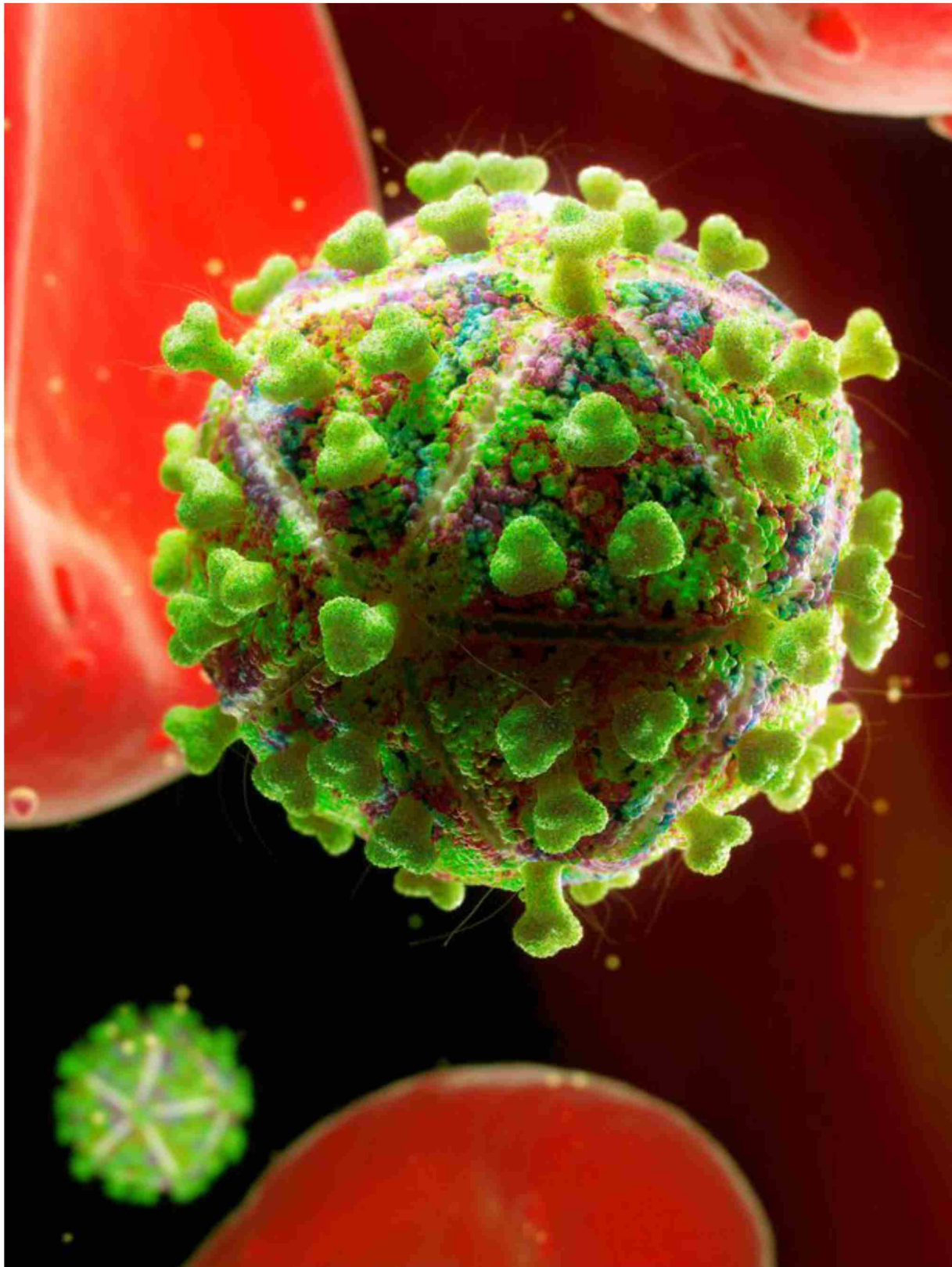
£19,700 he now gets from charity trusts is replaced by the proposed capped payment from a new government organisation. It would not be index-linked.

Current discretionary payments for care, hardship, and home adaptation would halt and spouses, partners and children would get just a one-off £5,000 payout.

Victims outside Scotland with both HIV and hepatitis C, like Alan, would also have to undergo humiliating health assessments.

The former painter and decorator found out he was HIV positive in 1985 after haemophilia treatment with a blood product called Factor VIII. He later contracted hepatitis C the same way.





Alan got HIV from an NHS transfusion where blood from high-risk donors was used (Image: Getty)

"We could end up losing our home," he says. "It is all made worse

because the Scottish government has shown compassion. They are listening to the infected and affected and have come up with a scheme most are happy with."

Alan and other victims have fought for more than 30 years for proper compensation for what happened to them, but the Government has never admitted liability for the scandal.

Campaigning Alan, of Ipswich, Suffolk, says the Government has failed victims it promised to help.

He said: "I sat with [David Cameron](#) and he said he knew about disability because of his son. He said our cause would become like Hillsborough and Bloody Sunday in terms of recognition.

"These proposed reforms are wicked. Full and final settlement is all we have ever asked for like the Scots. And while they are happy, there is still a way to go."



**Alan says David Cameron assured him that the sufferers who were infected would be looked after**

(Image: Getty)

Alan has suffered attacks because of his HIV. A brick was thrown through his car window. Intimidation got so bad police put surveillance cameras in his daughter's bedroom. The family were forced to move house.

He added: "My daughter Laura was going off the rails, self-harming. My wife, Denise, was fantastic and got her in therapy. She came through it."

He has made close bonds with other infected haemophiliacs through a social network. He says it has been harrowing watching them die.

Another victim from Warwickshire, who asked to remain anonymous, told us: "I am also quite prepared to die. I will gladly stop my medication. We have been ignored for 30 years."

The Department of Health said: "No decisions on scheme reform, including discretionary payments, will be made until consultation responses have been analysed."