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4 June 2025

Sir Brian Langstaff (Copy to Ms Jenni Richards KC)
Chairman
The Infected Blood Inquiry
5th Floor, Aldwych House,
71-91 Aldwych
London WC2B 4HN

Dear Sir Brian,

INFECTED BLOOD COMPENSATION REGULATIONS

I am writing to express my concern regarding the government's regulations for infected blood compensation, in particular the one stating that persons infected with HIV before 1982 are not eligible for compensation. This ignores the fact that those persons have been accepted and registered with EIBSS, have received regular support payments and the two interim compensation payments. They were also given reassurance that those registered with support schemes would be automatically eligible.

My daughter was infected with HIV in 1981 at the age of four having received a blood transfusion following open heart surgery. Both she and I submitted witness statements to the Inquiry and quotes from both our statements were included in your report published in May 2024.

My daughter has now been 'invited' to claim compensation only to be told by IBCA that she is likely to be ineligible because she was infected prior to 1982.

I understand the Inquiry is no longer receiving evidence but I am seriously concerned as the regulations now seem to prevent her receiving any compensation as she was infected just seven months prior to the cut off date of 1982.

The relevant regulation appears to have no regard for the fact that she is already registered with EIBSS, receives regular support payments and was awarded both the interim compensation payments without question. To reach this stage of the proceedings to be faced with the unbearable possibility of her claim being declined is yet another nightmare to be somehow endured.

Also the compensation calculator tool on the IBCA website is misleading and takes no account of the 1982 cut off date, and the estimated compensation figures are being calculated without any cut off date.

I know Ms Jenni Richards KC raised this apparently arbitrary cut off date of 1982 with the Paymaster General at the Inquiry hearings last month, and I hope that the Inquiry will put considerable pressure on the government to realise the injustice of this cut off date and remove it from the regulations. This current situation seems to go completely against the intent of your findings published in May 2024.

I understand that you obviously cannot comment on individual cases, and that the Inquiry is no longer receiving evidence, but I hope that for my daughter and the other people who find themselves in similar circumstances a resolution will be found. This unbearable and intolerable situation is cruel and unjust and is the cause of yet more anxiety, uncertainty and stress just as the nightmare of many years seemed to be reaching its end. These people deserve much better in order to move on with their lives.

Yours sincerely

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