

Witness Name: Lynne Kelly

Statement No:WITN3988001

Exhibits:WITN3988002-WITN3988093

Dated: 30 July 2020

EXHIBIT WITN3988093



Rt Hon Penny Mordaunt MP
Paymaster General
Cabinet Office 70 Whitehall London
SW1A 2AS

Stephen Kinnock MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Our reference: MC2020/07814

Your reference: SNK/CM

9 July 2020

Dear Stephen,

Thank you for your letter of 12 June regarding the Infected Blood Inquiry and parity of financial support for those who have been infected and affected by contaminated blood products.

First of all, I wish to reassure you that the Inquiry is a priority for the Government. In January, the previous sponsoring Minister, Rt Hon Oliver Dowden MP, and the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health, Nadine Dorries MP, met with a number of campaigners on the issue. Following the meeting, Minister Dowden wrote to the Prime Minister to update him on the Inquiry's progress, and the actions agreed to address some of the most pressing issues of support for people infected and affected.

I am keenly aware that there remain significant disparities in financial and non-financial support for people infected and affected across the UK. I am working with HM Treasury, the Department of Health and Social Care and health departments in the devolved administrations to take forward the actions necessary to address these disparities.

It is extremely important that all those who have suffered so terribly can get the answers they have spent decades waiting for, and lessons can be learnt so that a tragedy of this scale never happens again.

The Inquiry itself is making good progress and has been hearing oral evidence since 30 April 2019, with nearly four thousand others providing written statements. At its most recent hearings in February, the Inquiry heard from a series of expert panels that include psychological, hepatitis, HIV, blood and bleeding disorders, statistics and medical ethics groups. Unfortunately, because of the Covid-19 outbreak, the Inquiry has had to postpone its next hearings scheduled for June and July until after the summer. However, the Chair, Sir Brian Langstaff, recently wrote to core participants outlining the Inquiry's approach to holding safe hearings during the coronavirus pandemic and confirmed that the Inquiry is working towards holding the postponed hearings this autumn.

In the meantime the Inquiry's Investigative work, its examination of the evidence and its preparations for forthcoming hearings, continues at pace. I am committed to providing the Inquiry with all the support it needs to complete its work as quickly as a thorough examination of the facts allows.

Please be reassured that as soon as I receive the Inquiry's recommendations, I will review them with the utmost urgency.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Penny Mordaunt', with a stylized flourish above the name.

Rt Hon Penny Mordaunt MP
Paymaster General



Rt Hon Penny Mordaunt MP
Paymaster General
Cabinet Office 70 Whitehall London
SW1A 2AS

Virginia Crosbie MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Our reference: MC2020/08688

9 July 2020

Dear Virginia,

Thank you for your letter of 22 June on behalf of your constituents, Jennifer and Norman Hutchinson and Tom and Janet Jones, regarding the Infected Blood Inquiry and parity of financial support for people in Wales who have been infected and affected by contaminated blood products.

First of all, I wish to reassure you and your constituents that the Inquiry is a priority for the Government. In January, the previous sponsoring Minister, Rt Hon Oliver Dowden MP, and the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health, Nadine Dorries MP, met with a number of campaigners on the issue. Following the meeting, Minister Dowden wrote to the Prime Minister to update him on the Inquiry's progress, and the actions agreed to address some of the most pressing issues of support for people infected and affected.

On the matter of financial support, I am keenly aware there remain significant disparities in financial and non-financial support for people infected and affected across the UK, including widows and widowers. I am working with HM Treasury, the Department of Health and Social Care and health departments in the devolved administrations to take forward the actions necessary to address these disparities.

It is extremely important that all those who have suffered so terribly can get the answers they have spent decades waiting for, and lessons can be learnt so that a tragedy of this scale never happens again.

The Inquiry itself is making good progress and has been hearing oral evidence since 30 April 2019, with nearly four thousand others providing written statements. At its most recent hearings in February, the Inquiry heard from a series of expert panels that include psychological, hepatitis, HIV, blood and bleeding disorders, statistics and medical ethics groups. Unfortunately, because of the Covid-19 outbreak, the Inquiry has had to postpone its next hearings scheduled for June and July until after the summer. However, the Chair, Sir Brian Langstaff, recently wrote to core participants outlining the Inquiry's approach to holding safe hearings during the coronavirus pandemic and confirmed that the Inquiry is working towards holding the postponed

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In the meantime the Inquiry's investigative work, its examination of the evidence and its preparations for forthcoming hearings, continues at pace. I am committed to providing the Inquiry with all the support it needs to complete its work as quickly as a thorough examination of the facts allows.

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Rt Hon Penny Mordaunt MP
PAYMASTER GENERAL