

Witness Name: David Cameron

Statement No.: WITN3903001

Exhibits: WITN3903002- WITN3903006

Dated: 14 February 2020

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

EXHIBIT WITN3903003

OFFICIAL

From: Clare MacDonald
Date: 13 July 2015

PRIME MINISTER

cc: Jeremy Heywood
Chris Martin
Ed Llewellyn
Kate Fall
Craig Oliver
Camilla Cavendish
Ameet Gill
Gabby Bertin
Graeme Wilson
Adam Atashzai
Helen Bower
Nicola Hudson

CAD,
This is better, but totally unimpressive
so will disappoint. We need to
find a sum of money & an approach
that is on final move. No one in
capacity is to solve this, but simply
to be a bit more generous. DC 14.7.

REVISED CONTAMINATED BLOOD CONSULTATION

You asked for a different approach to the consultation on reform of support schemes for those affected by contaminated blood. To ensure we meet your commitment of consulting before recess, the consultation has been redrafted for publication this week.

Jeremy Hunt wrote to you to outline the options for reform of the charities supporting those affected by contaminated NHS blood products (see attached annex). You were clear that you were not content with a reformed system where funding might be withdrawn from those who currently receive it (e.g. uninfected family members).

To meet your request but also stick to the timetable you committed to at PMQs, the consultation has been redrafted to make it entirely open as to the best way forwards, rather than specifying a preferred Government position. This delays decisions on funding for the new scheme until the consultation is complete. There is no longer any reference in the consultation to withdrawing support from certain groups, and the consultation clearly states that "It is our intention in reforming these schemes that anyone currently receiving support will continue to do so in a reformed system." The consultation will be published on Wednesday, alongside a ministerial statement formally responding to the Penrose report.

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Would you like to announce the consultation yourself during PMQs this Wednesday, as you did with the initial response to Penrose? No.

The consultation is likely to raise expectations of significant additional payments. You initially committed £25m of additional funding for new payments, but this was a one off amount rather than recurrent funding. To maintain the current payments but provide additional compensation to those with stage 1 hepatitis C would cost an extra £33m a year, more than doubling the costs of the scheme from £21m per year to £54m per year.

We will work with the Department of Health and HMT to a spending review timetable to consider the affordability the new scheme, and will come back to you with further advice. We have understood your feedback to mean we should guarantee that no one will have their support reduced or removed in the new scheme, and that DH should absorb the extra costs of the scheme into their baseline for future years. The £25m you committed would be used for the ongoing costs of the scheme and increased payments to some groups, rather than any one off payments.

Are you content with this approach?

Yes. DH to announce

CLARE MACDONALD