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## News



### Press Statement re MacFarlane Trust - Alistair Burt

Wednesday 25 February 2015

*Following developments over the last few days concerning the letter sent by the CEO of the Haemophilia Society, Liz Carroll, to the Minister for Public Health, Jane Ellison MP, in which certain comments by the CEO and Chair of the Macfarlane Trust were alleged, and the current support arrangements were described as 'not fit for purpose', many of you have been anxious to see how we would respond.*

*TaintedBlood felt it was important to provide a measured and co-ordinated response. To this end we have remained in contact with Alistair Burt who has just issued the following press release:*

2015 PRESS RELEASE Rt Hon ALISTAIR BURT MP North East Bedfordshire 0207 219 8132 / 01767 313385 / 01234 314491 alistair.burt.mp@GRO-C

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### **MPs CALL FOR GOVERNMENT INQUIRY INTO MACFARLANE TRUST AFTER HAEMOPHILIA SOCIETY LOSES CONFIDENCE**

Following the recent report of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Haemophilia and Contaminated Blood and a debate in the House of Commons, the Haemophilia Society has written to the Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Health Jane Ellison MP expressing their view that the various trusts tasked with administering support to victims of the contaminated blood scandal are 'not fit for purpose', and should be disbanded.

We strongly agree that the Government should announce that this system of trusts requires urgent review, with no option for reform or change off the agenda. In addition we believe that the overwhelming criticism of the MacFarlane Trust in particular, from its own Trustees, its beneficiaries and now the Haemophilia Society, together with serious allegations about the Trust's attitudes to its beneficiaries, requires even more urgent action from Government, and that it should institute an immediate inquiry into the allegations made by the Haemophilia Society.

We are therefore calling on Minister Ellison to do just that.

Beneficiaries are entitled to know what is behind this letter, and the truth or otherwise of the allegations made. Together with other substantial criticism of the trust over a lengthy period, the MacFarlane trust requires urgent scrutiny by the Minister and Government.

Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP

Diana Johnson MP, Co-Chair APPG Haemophilia

Rt Hon Jenny Willott MP

Jason McCartney MP, Co-Chair APPG Haemophilia