

Witness Name: David Cameron

Statement No.: WITN3903007

Exhibits: WITN3903008- WITN3903015

Dated: 13 December 2021

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

EXHIBIT WITN3903010

PRIME MINISTER

From: Nick Seddon

Date: 24 June 2014

Cc: Jeremy Heywood Chris Martin
Ed Llewellyn Simon Case
Catherine Fall Ed Whiting
Oliver Dowden Jo Johnson
Ameetpal Gill Craig Oliver
Graeme Wilson Emmi Poteliakhoff

NS
Let's see what the team think. I am tempted to do it - it is taking my intention to get this sorted & don't be

CONTAMINATED BLOOD

not trusted.... let's get this fixed - the calendar for Nov.
GRO-C 25.6

Your constituency meeting with **GRO-A** a couple of weeks ago went down well in online chatrooms and campaigner websites, as I discovered this morning when I met with Alastair Burt and a clutch of MPs in the APPG on Contaminated Blood. I thought I'd quickly relay the discussion and seek a steer. You'll recall that I have been pushing DH to develop a series of actions:

- ✓ 1. announce a review of the whole system of financial support for infected individuals and bereaved relatives
- ✓ 2. offer those currently receiving regular payments the choice of a reasonable final lump sum (DH have allocated ~£25m); *(Does this help)* **GRO-A** ??
- ✓ 3. demonstrate complete transparency on past decisions by transferring DH's remaining unpublished documentary record to the National Archive;
- ✓ 4. express regret for the situation these victims find themselves in.

There has been a remaining question about timing and sequencing, given that the Scottish Penrose review, expected to report earlier in the year, has been delayed again. It will now almost certainly publish after the Scottish referendum.

The MPs don't think we should hurry out any announcements about contaminated blood, but instead should line up support for anything we do. The APPG is conducting an inquiry into the funding charities which will report in October, so they want us to wait until after that reports; they also say we should wait till after Penrose – and believe that contaminated blood sufferers are also expecting us to wait till then, albeit with grumbling about the delays to the inquiry.

Alastair would nevertheless quite like to ask a PMQ before recess to prompt an assurance from you that HMG is working to develop satisfactory arrangements.

DH are working on options, including options for a one-off £25m payment in addition to the routine funding. I discussed at a high level with the MPs. They are thinking about carrying out a YouGov survey and suggested that we might use their questionnaire as a way to gently test out the views of campaigners without

actually running a formal consultation. That sounds smart to me. They want to meet with me and Jane Ellison before recess – which I will make happen.

Finally, they are determined that you should make the apology, not the health secretary. I have cautioned against this, not least because no formal liability has ever been conceded. However, their argument is that more people have died as a result of this than Hillsborough and Bloody Sunday put together and that the most powerful apology possible would be from the PM on behalf of the state; they believe you have earned much goodwill for your engagement so far and that you will receive credit for acting; they believe an SoS apology will backfire.

Personally I think this is risky and I am not sure the political pressure is quite high enough to warrant you doing this, though I do take their point that some public statement from you could draw a line under this. **Do you want to change the position we have held so far and instead plan for you to make a public apology on behalf of historic government failings?**

NICK SEDDON