

### **Irish Compensation Settlement: Timeline**

- 1989** Haemophilia HIV Trust established to provide basic financial assistance for the victims of the contaminated blood disaster.
- 1991** Ex gratia payments made, similar to Macfarlane Trust. Recipients were asked to sign waivers agreeing not to take legal action against the Irish Government with regard to HIV infections. Unlike the UK, the Irish waiver did not mention hepatitis.
- 1994** Discussion began with Irish DoH officials about hepatitis C compensation.
- 1995** Non-statutory compensation tribunal established. The Irish government agreed to use the word 'compensation' as an expression of moral liability. There was no admission of legal liability.
- March 1996** First compensation payments made. Average payment was EUR 353,636, but payments varied widely, from EUR 14,000 to EUR 3.1 million.
- October 1996** Finlay Tribunal commenced. The focus of this tribunal was infection with hepatitis C as a result of anti D treatment.
- March 1997** Finlay Tribunal report published.
- Sept 1999** Lindsay Tribunal established by the Irish Parliament to investigate the infection of people with haemophilia with hepatitis C and HIV following their treatment with contaminated blood products.
- April 2002** Hepatitis C Compensation Tribunal Bill 1997 amended to allow for further compensation for persons with HIV. The scope of the Compensation Tribunal was widened to include HIV, and the categories of people entitled to compensation were broadened to include spouses, partners and carers.
- Sept 2002** Lindsay Tribunal report published. The Blood Transfusion Service was found to be responsible for the infection of one person who required cryoprecipitate, but the majority of factor VIII infections were found have resulted from treatment with imported factor VIII. Seven individuals were found to be infected with hepatitis C as a result of Irish Factor IX, and the Blood Transfusion Service was found to be responsible for the delay in the introduction of heat treatment of factor IX concentrates.
- August 2007** Brian O'Mahoney, Chief Executive of the Irish Haemophilia Society, gave evidence to the Archer Inquiry on the parallels between the British and Irish contaminated blood disasters. He said:

"One person did say to me that the reason that compensation was paid in Ireland and not in the UK was that the Irish Government were culpable and the UK Government were not. Well, in fact HIV antibody testing was introduced in the UK in October 1985 and in Ireland in October 1985; hepatitis C antibody testing was introduced in September 1991 in the UK and in October 1991 in Ireland, so the same dates. In Ireland self-sufficiency was promised in 1980 and delivered to a limited extent in 1985. In the UK, it was promised in 1974 and delivered in 1987, so in fact there was a longer delay. There were a lot of parallels between the situation. ALT testing, for example, in Ireland was going to be introduced in 1987, as a surrogate marker for hepatitis C, and they then decided to delay the introduction pending its introduction in the UK; of course it was never introduced in the UK so it was then never introduced in Ireland. So I think there were a lot of parallels in terms of the timing of those, no major difference.