

Witness Name: William Vineall

Statement No: WITN4688061

Exhibits: None

Dated: 06 December 2021

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIFTH WRITTEN STATEMENT OF WILLIAM VINEALL

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006, dated 19 October 2021.

Introduction

I, William Vineall, will say as follows: -

1. My name is William Vineall. My professional address is 39 Victoria St, Westminster, London SW1H 0EU.
2. I am Director of NHS Quality, Safety and Investigations at the Department of Health and Social Care ("the Department"), since 2016. Part of my role includes oversight of on-going inquiries or investigations pertaining to the responsibilities of the Department, not just restricted to current NHS issues. I am duly authorised to make this statement on behalf of the Department. The contents of the statement are true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief. I have set out the questions posed to me for ease of reference.

Question 1:

3. *Please confirm whether the existing funeral pre-payment plan available under EIBSS will continue, be modified or abolished as a result of these reforms?*

I can confirm that we have no current plans to change the existing funeral pre-payment discretionary grant as a result of these reforms.

Question 2:

Please confirm whether individuals who are both infected and bereaved will be able to claim applicable infected payment and bereaved partner payments once these reforms are fully implemented?

4. Yes, individuals who meet the criteria both as an infected (Primary) beneficiary and a bereaved partner will be able to claim both an Annual Payment in respect of their infection and an annual payment as a bereaved partner.

Question 3:

Please confirm whether future annual support payments will be fixed at those rates set out in the Paymaster General's Statement or index linked for future years?

5. Annual payments will be subject to a cost of living increase each year. The annual increase will be agreed between the four nations to ensure that new disparities do not emerge over time due to differing levels of increase being applied. Lump sum payment amounts will remain fixed.

Question 4:

At paragraph 35 of your Fourth Witness Statement dated 2 July 2021 you state that winter fuel payments for bereaved partners will continue to be an area of difference between the UK schemes, but do not expand further. Please clarify what you meant

by this, in particular why there will continue to be distinctions between the four schemes for such payments.

6. These payments will continue to be an area of difference because bereaved partners receive winter fuel payments under the schemes in England and Northern Ireland and do not receive such payments under the schemes in Scotland and Wales. Eligibility for payments is a matter of the structure of each scheme and was not addressed as part of these reforms.

Statement of Truth

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed:

GRO-C

Dated: 06 December 2021