



**House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW**

28 March 2025

Dear Sir Brian

I write on behalf of Baronesses Campbell, Brinton, Finlay and myself, who are the key speakers in the Lords on all debates concerning the Infected Blood scandal.

The most recent of these was a regret motion tabled by Baroness Brinton as an amendment to the second set of regulations on 19 March.

We feel that, despite the Government's good intentions, the reality and experience of those infected and affected by contaminated NHS blood products remains wanting. This is despite the Government's promise to abide by most of the Inquiry recommendations.

The IB Community tell of deeply concerning delays in the application process; slow response to applicants' queries; difficulties navigating the bureaucratic compensation claims system; and the attitude of some within the IBCA, who come across as gatekeepers rather than efficient, compassionate compensation enablers. We have also been made aware of issues within the compensation schemes such as the 25% less for carers and underpayment errors due to incorrect tariff calculations. I am sure you read the debates, and the key issues are raised therein.

I quote below an extract sent to me by the daughter of an infected father after the regret motion debate last week.

"I think there are forces in the Cabinet Office and Treasury who are controlling everything. I met some Cabinet Officials recently and it took me a week to get over not only their collective disregard for what we said, but refusal to listen. I have concluded that there must be more intelligent ways to effect change than engaging directly with officials. They made me feel like a combatant rather than a compassionate, moral person who stepped up to protect my dad and my family when they were failed by the State. They seem to think of all victims in a derisory way, so I'm sure it's not just me.

She went on to say her experience “*infers that the government is hoping to save a lot of money by pursuing attritional policies which they deny, but which seems unarguable.*”

As you will be aware from your compassionate chairing of the Inquiry, and from witness testimonials and evidence, the way that many victims are being treated now by the IBCA and the Government is reminiscent of the way they were treated throughout the 40 years of pleading for justice. This behaviour is certainly not what we believed would occur when the legislation was amended and passed after your recommendations were considered.

As Parliamentarians, we have exhausted most avenues to prevent or sufficiently change what's occurring, apart from tabling PQs on progress and rollout – hence our letter to you. You were and are the shining light of justice in this terrible scandalous episode in the history of the NHS. We are aware you are reactivating the Inquiry and will be producing a further report.

We hope our letter helps in your much needed deliberations.

Yours sincerely

Baroness Lynne Featherstone
Baroness Jane Campbell
Baroness Sal Brinton
Baroness Ilora Finlay