



Andrew Evans

Tainted Blood

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5th December 2024

Sir Brian Langstaff
Infected Blood Inquiry
Aldwych House
71-91 Aldwych
London WC2B 4HN

By email only: contact@infectedbloodinquiry.org.uk

Dear Sir Brian,

I regret that I am compelled to write to you for your assistance, given that at this stage it ought not to be required, but here we are. I offer my apologies for placing this burden upon your shoulders, given the immense undertaking and clear recommendations you made in your role as Chair of the Inquiry. It should not have come to this.

You will have received communication, I believe, from several firms of solicitors who acted on behalf of Core Participants and others during the Inquiry. Their letter, which has been shared with me and Tainted Blood, details the progress or otherwise of enacting the recommendations you set out within your Second Interim Report and Final Report, insofar as they relate to compensation.

This letter is not intended to repeat what has been said in that communication, but rather to reinforce it. In particular, as support groups we feel that the onus of attempting to rectify the failings and shortcomings in the implementation of your recommendations, as detailed in the solicitors' letter, has fallen squarely on our shoulders. We don't need to tell you that we are tired of fighting... indeed for a few hours on 20th May this year, we thought that, thanks to you, our battle was all but over. How wrong we were.

The engagement of the Advisory Expert Panel to create the scheme's tariffs and parameters (chaired by Jonathan Montgomery, formerly of Bayer, and a secret group of others), which was anything but independent, showed us the direction of travel early on. In creating said tariffs and parameters, the Expert Advisory Panel neither made contact with the community, nor accessed the Inquiry's evidence.

The so-called Arms Length Body, the IBCA, is directed by the Cabinet Office, and is answerable to the Government, not to Parliament. It does not act independently, but directly at the behest of the Cabinet Office

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Policy Team. Whilst IBCA, Sir Robert and many of the staff are, I believe, doing their best, they are constrained by the Cabinet Office and the Paymaster General. Because of this, our representations on outstanding issues are landing with the puppet, not with the puppetmaster.

Further, in making these representations, we are forced to act alone, without vital legal advice or assistance. Although infected and affected ourselves, we shoulder the burden of supporting our entire community in attempting to explain complex and lengthy documentation and address the concerns evident, along with trying to manage as best we can the very real mental and emotional damage this whole process is causing to the vast majority of those people impacted by the scandal. I can tell you that as a result, the Tainted Blood Steering Committee is utterly overwhelmed.

I do not ask of you anything more than that which is set out in the solicitors' letter and recommendations comparison tables. As I said, this letter is to reinforce that message and its requests. We will, of course, continue to do what we need to in order to make this right, for as long as we are able to do so. My sincere wish is that this need not continue for too much longer.

With all best wishes and my undying gratitude,

Andy

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Andrew Evans
Chair, TaintedBlood

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