

# INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

## 7-8 MAY 2025 HEARING

### CHRONOLOGY<sup>1</sup>

- 13 July 2020** Letter from Penny Mordaunt (Paymaster General) to Rishi Sunak (Chancellor of the Exchequer) regarding compensation: *“I believe it to be inevitable that the Government will need to provide substantial compensation ... I believe we should begin preparing for this now”* **EIBS0000706**
- 21 September 2020** Penny Mordaunt wrote again to the Chancellor regarding compensation *“I firmly believe that we should begin preparing for this now ... I cannot stress enough the urgency of taking long overdue action on financial support and compensation”* **EIBS0000705**
- 25 March 2021** Penny Mordaunt informed Parliament of the Government’s intention to commission an independent study to advise on a compensation framework **WITN4066017**
- 20 May 2021** Announcement of the appointment of Sir Robert Francis QC to carry out the study *“to provide the Government with advice and recommendations on a potential compensation framework”* **RLIT0002057**
- 21 May 2021** Evidence of Matt Hancock (Secretary of State for Health and Social Care) to the Inquiry *“should the Inquiry’s recommendations point to compensation, then of course we will pay compensation and Sir Robert Francis’s Review on compensation is there in order that the Government will be able to respond quickly to that”* **INQY1000121 page 151**

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<sup>1</sup> References to “the Government” in this Chronology are to the UK Government.

**23 September 2021** Michael Ellis (Paymaster General) acknowledged in a written Parliamentary statement that *“The infected blood scandal continues to claim the lives of infected people, and those directly affected have waited too long for answers, and for justice”* **RLIT0002083**

**14 March 2022** Sir Robert Francis delivered the Infected Blood Compensation Study to the Government

**7 June 2022** Infected Blood Compensation Study from Sir Robert Francis was published by the Government **RLIT0001129**. Contrary to repeated previous statements on behalf of the Government, it did not publish its response to the Study **Inquiry May 2024 Report Volume 7 pages 265-6**

**29 July 2022** First Interim Report of the Infected Blood Inquiry recommending interim payments **INQY0000367**

**17 August 2022** The Government accepted the recommendation for interim payments **RLIT0002086**

**5 September 2022** Michael Ellis indicated that the Government would not respond to the Compensation Study until the final report of the Inquiry was published **RLIT0002094**

**30 November 2022** Senior officials across government met for the first time to consider compensation **WITN7526002 para 8**

**15 December 2022** The Government accepted the moral case for compensation **COLL0000022**

**Early 2023** The Government decided that the DHSC would establish a new team to undertake an analysis of the cost and scale of implementation of the compensation framework **INQY1000280 pages 40-42**

**3 February 2023** The Inquiry indicated that a second interim report would be published **INQY1000276 page 130**

<b>22 February 2023</b>	Small Ministerial Group met for the first time to discuss compensation <b>WITN7526002 para 9</b>
<b>5 April 2023</b>	Second Interim Report of the Infected Blood Inquiry with full and final recommendations on compensation <b>INQY0000453</b>
<b>19 April 2023</b>	The Government provided its initial response to the Second Interim Report in an oral statement from Jeremy Quin (Paymaster General) to Parliament <b>WITN7755003 para 234; RLIT0002126</b>
<b>3 May 2023</b>	The Government decided to commission further work, having considered analysis of scope and cost of the Inquiry's recommendations <b>WITN7755003 para 235</b>
<b>June 2023</b>	James Quinault took up responsibility for work in the Cabinet Office on infected blood <b>WITN7755001 para 2</b>
<b>12 June 2023</b>	UK, Scottish and Welsh Ministers and Northern Ireland Department of Health Permanent Secretary held first meeting to discuss compensation <b>RLIT0002157</b>
<b>12 July 2023</b>	The Government considered further analysis of scope and cost of recommendations and decided further interim payments must await decisions on design and eligibility for compensation in a full scheme <b>WITN7755003 para 236</b>
<b>24-26, 28 July 2023</b>	Inquiry hearing regarding the Government's response to compensation <b>INQY1000279-INQY1000282</b>
<b>21 August 2023</b>	The Government decided that primary legislation would be needed to establish UK wide scheme <b>WITN7755003 para 237</b>
<b>28 September 2023</b>	The Government decided the Cabinet Office should lead on work on the design of compensation scheme <b>WITN7755003 para 238</b>

- 18 October 2023** The Government decided in principle to make space in fourth legislative session for a bill to provide the legal basis for a compensation scheme (in the event the Government decided instead to amend Victims and Prisoners Bill) **WITN7755003 para 239**
- 23 October 2023** The Government decided in principle to appoint medical and legal experts to advise on tariffs and criteria for the compensation scheme **WITN7755003 paras 228, 240**
- 23 November 2023** The Government decided in principle, subject to approval of a business case, to establish a new delivery body to deliver the scheme **WITN7755003 para 241**
- 29 November 2023** The Government made decision in principle on structure of appeals for the compensation scheme **WITN7755003 para 242**
- 4 December 2023** House of Commons voted in support of amendment to Bill to require the Government to establish compensation body within three months of passing of the Act (amendment opposed by the Government). During the debate, the Government announced intention to bring forward amendment when the Bill reached the Lords. **RLIT0002349 pages 57, 66-67**
- The Government decided in principle on format and composition of expert group **WITN7755003 para 244**
- 18 December 2023** John Glen (Paymaster General) told Parliament that *“It is now a year on from the Government’s acceptance of the moral case for compensation, and I understand the calls for urgency. I know that, from many of those infected and affected, there is anger and frustration with the Government’s response so far. The Inquiry’s recommendations are not without complexity, and it would be inappropriate for the Government to prejudge the*

*findings of the final report. For these reasons, the Government are not yet in a position to share any final decisions on compensation.” He added that the Government was “urgently appointing clinical, legal and social care experts to advise the Cabinet Office on detailed technical considerations early in the new year, which will ensure that the Government have the relevant expertise to make informed choices in responding to the Inquiry’s recommendations on compensation.”* **RLIT0002341**

Nick Thomas-Symonds (shadow Paymaster General) advocated greater urgency and added *“Will [the Paymaster General] also commit to continuing to work closely with all the victims’ groups in the future, so that their voice is heard throughout the establishment of the compensation scheme? To the extent that he has announced a timetable today, when might people receive the final compensation? This is so pressing because, on average, one person dies every four days as a result of this scandal.”* **RLIT0002341**

- 21 December 2023** Proposals for composition of Expert Group and shortlist of candidates submitted to Minister for approval **WITN7755003 para 231**
- 8 January 2024** The Government approved appointments to Expert Group **WITN7755003 paras 231, 245**
- 18 January 2024** John Glen told Parliament that the Cabinet Office was moving forward with the appointment of clinical, legal and care experts **RLIT0002339**
- 22 January 2024** Expert Group formally appointed **WITN7755001 para 75; WITN7755003 para 231**
- 26 February 2024** Deputy Leader of the House of Lords described the role of the Expert Group as *“to enable Ministers to understand*

*certain technical issues and thus enable decisions to be made more quickly” RLIT0002350 page 15*

- 12 March 2024** Expert Group met medical assessors from EIBSS and SIBSS **WITN7755003 para 124**
- 25 March 2024** The Government decided to table amendment to the Victims and Prisoners Bill to provide the legal framework for establishment of compensation scheme **WITN7755003 para 246**
- 17 April 2024** The Government decided to amend the Bill to make provision for interim payments to estates of deceased infected persons **WITN7755003 para 247**
- Letter to all MPs from John Glen regarding amendments to the Victims and Prisoners Bill introduced that day, stating that the Government *“recognises that time is critical”* and that people *“have already waited too long”* **WITN7763004**
- 22 April 2024** The Government decided the delivery body for the scheme should be an Arms-Length Body of the Cabinet Office and to appoint an interim Chief Executive (decisions announced in Parliament on 24 April) **WITN7755003 para 248**
- 23 April 2024** Additional members added to Expert Group **WITN7755001 para 75**
- 26 April 2024** The Government decided to table amendment to the Bill to introduce a three month timetable for making regulations, tabled on 29 April and withdrawn in the debate on 30 April to accept the Opposition’s amendment. **WITN7755003 para 249, RLIT0002488 page 32**
- 30 April 2024** The Government agreed, as part of discussions on the Bill, that IBCA would consider the provision of legal support for

applicants and that past ex gratia payments would not be deducted from compensation **WITN7755003 para 250, RLIT0002488 pages 41-42**

**7-8 May 2024**

Paymaster General John Glen met 20 representatives of community groups **WITN7755001 para 3<sup>2</sup>**

**10 May 2024**

Ministers took decisions in principle, subject to collective agreement, on the structure of the scheme, on eligibility and awards for infected persons, on the scheme's operational design and on making further interim payments to the living infected **WITN7755003 para 253**

**15 May 2024**

The Government decided on early commencement provisions for Part 3 of Bill **WITN7755003 para 254**

**16 May 2024**

Ministers took decisions in principle, subject to collective agreement, on eligibility and awards for affected persons, on injury and bereavement awards to affected, on future financial loss payments to dependents of deceased infected persons, on transition of existing support schemes, and on plans for engagement **WITN7755003 para 255**

**20 May 2024**

Report of the Infected Blood Inquiry published

Prime Minister's statement in Parliament: *"justice also demands action and accountability" "we will pay comprehensive compensation to those infected and those affected by this scandal, accepting the principles recommended by the inquiry, which builds on the work of Sir Robert Francis. Whatever it costs to deliver the scheme, we will pay it"* **RLIT0002476**

The Welsh Government's statement: *"The debate in the Senedd on 7 May confirmed our position in relation to the*

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<sup>2</sup> WITN7755003 para 252 suggests there were 18 meetings between 1 and 10 May

*UK Government's proposal to set up an arm's length body to provide the vehicle by which compensation could be paid. Welsh Government officials will work with the UK Government to ensure Welsh beneficiaries and their families are recompensed in keeping with the Inquiry's interim report on compensation."* **RLIT0002489**

**21 May 2024**

Formal collective agreement reached on the Government's proposal for compensation scheme **WITN7755003 para 256**

Statement in Parliament by John Glen that compensation awards would be made in the categories recommended by the Inquiry ("*with two small refinements*"); Sir Robert Francis would seek views from the infected blood community before the scheme's terms were set in regulations "*to make sure the scheme will best serve those who it is intended for*" **RLIT0002477 page 2**

Shadow Paymaster General asked for confirmation that "*there will be no undue delay in those final payments reaching victims*" **RLIT0002477 page 3**

Statement in the Scottish Parliament by the First Minister stating that the Scottish Government "*will work collaboratively with the United Kingdom Government*" to put into effect the Prime Minister's promise that comprehensive compensation will be paid to the infected and the affected, and recognising "*how important it is that all those who are affected are able to access compensation as soon as possible*" **WITN2287088 pages 3-4**

Statement by the Minister of Health in the Northern Ireland Assembly: "*Addressing the recommendations [of the Inquiry] will require a collective effort and coordination of*

*communications in collaboration with the infected and affected community.”* **RLIT0002490 page 29**

Information published online about the compensation scheme **RLIT0002493** and about interim payments **RLIT0002486**

Interim/Summary Report of the Expert Group published **RLIT0002478**

- 22 May 2024** Announcement by Prime Minister of general election
- 23 May 2024** Amendments to Victims and Prisoners Bill
- First meeting by Cabinet Office with campaigners following publication of the Inquiry Report
- 29 May 2024** Statement of intent from Sir Robert Francis regarding IBCA's work and proposed engagement **WITN7757009**
- June 2024** Engagement explainer produced (not published) by the Cabinet Office **WITN7752004**
- 17 June 2024** Week beginning 17 June, series of meetings with campaigners
- 4 July 2024** General election resulting in new Government
- 12 July 2024** Report from Sir Robert Francis containing recommendations on scheme proposals (published on 16 August) **RLIT0002466**
- 6 August 2024** Nick Thomas-Symonds (Paymaster General) met representatives of 7 community groups **WITN7755001 para 6**
- 16 August 2024** Sir Robert Francis' report published **RLIT0002468**
- Further information published by the Government regarding the scheme **WITN7760006**
- Final Report of Expert Group published **RLIT0002474**

**23 August 2024** The Infected Blood Compensation Scheme Regulations 2024 were laid before Parliament **RLIT0002479**

Establishment of IBCA

**2 September 2024** Statement to Parliament from Nick Thomas-Symonds regarding the compensation scheme **RLIT0002464**

**10 October 2024** IBCA Newsletter **RLIT0002469**

Press release announcing appointment of 6 non-executive directors to IBCA Board **WITN7757004**

**17 October 2024** IBCA Newsletter explaining that the first 20 people would be invited to start their claim **WITN7762006**

**23 October 2024** Parliamentary debate on the compensation scheme; Nick Thomas-Symonds stated that he *“will do everything in my power to ensure that all those who are entitled to compensation receive it as soon as possible”* **RLIT0002470 page 2**

**24 October 2024** IBCA Newsletter noting that applications for interim payments to estates were now open **WITN7762013**; application form for infected blood interim estates payments published (updated 17 December) **RLIT0002473**

**13 November 2024** Letter from Sir Brian Langstaff to Nick Thomas-Symonds regarding the position of siblings **INQY0000461**

IBCA Newsletter explaining intention to send out further invites to claim, in small numbers, before the end of the year **WITN7762009**

**19 November 2024** Nick Thomas-Symonds referred during parliamentary debate to work underway across Government to *“strengthen responsibilities relating to candour and transparency for public servants”*; explained that IBCA *“is working in a way that will allow it to scale up as quickly as*

*it possibly can*”; and recognised the “*need for speed in delivering compensation payments is paramount*”

**RLIT0002475 pages 3-4**

- 29 November 2024** Letter from Haemophilia Society, the Hepatitis C Trust, Haemophilia Scotland, Haemophilia Northern Ireland, Tainted Blood and BTMK Solicitors sent to the Inquiry  
**HSOC0029916**
- December 2024** Consultation on unethical research award
- 4 December 2024** Letter from Recognised Legal Representatives to the Inquiry  
**WITN7761003**
- 5 December 2024** Letter from Andrew Evans of Tainted Blood to the Inquiry  
**ANDE0000001**
- Letter from Lynne Kelly of Haemophilia Wales to the Inquiry  
**LKEL0000010**
- 9 December 2024** Letter from Sir Brian Langstaff to Nick Thomas-Symonds regarding compensation  
**INQY0000462**
- 10 December 2024** Letter from Sir Robert Francis to the Inquiry  
**SRFS0000021**
- 11-12 December 2024** Nick Thomas-Symonds met 27 representatives of community groups  
**WITN7755001 para 7**
- 17 December 2024** Government’s response to the Inquiry Report  
**RLIT0002471**
- Government expressed regret for confusion over estates claims  
**RLIT0002473**
- 3 January 2025** Letter (dated 31 December 2024) from Nick Thomas-Symonds received by the Inquiry  
**RLIT0002491**
- 8 January 2025** IBCA Community Update which stated that the first compensation offers had been made to 10 people and IBCA had invited a further 25 to claim, with a plan to have

	brought in 250 claimants by the end of March <b>WITN7757002</b>
<b>17-22 January 2025</b>	James Quinault held 8 meetings involving 24 representatives of community groups and provided an update on unethical research awards <b>WITN7755001 para 8, WITN0622014</b>
<b>21 January 2025</b>	User consultants attended IBCA's board meeting <b>WITN7755001 para 34</b>
<b>24 January 2025</b>	As of this date, 242 claims for interim payments to estates paid; 85 approved and awaiting payment; 122 applications in progress; 44 applications rejected <b>WITN7755001 para 121</b>
<b>30 January 2025</b>	Nick Thomas-Symonds held 5 meetings with 26 community representatives <b>WITN7755001 para 9</b>
<b>10 February 2025</b>	IBCA Community Update explaining how it intended to open up the scheme <b>RLIT0002482</b>
<b>12 February 2025</b>	Infected Blood Compensation Scheme Regulations 2025 laid in draft  Addendum report of Expert Group published <b>WITN7762015</b>
<b>March 2025</b>	IBCA Framework document published <b>WITN7755002</b>
<b>19 March 2025</b>	Update from IBCA noting 63 offers of compensation had been made and 255 people had been asked to begin their compensation claim <b>WITN7757010 para 12</b>  Letter from Nick Thomas-Symonds regarding error in the formulae in the first set of regulations <b>WITN7760007</b>
<b>24 March 2025</b>	Delegated Legislation Committee debate on the second set of regulations <b>WITN7760004</b>

**31 March 2025**

Second set of regulations in force (made on 27 March)  
**RLIT0002944**

Infected Blood Support Scheme closed to new applicants  
after this date **WITN6392300**

**14 April 2025**

IBCA announced prioritisation of claims for those nearing  
the end of their life **RLIT0002492**

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22 April 2025