



Department
of Health &
Social Care

*From Maria Caulfield MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Department of Health & Social Care*

*39 Victoria Street
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02 June 2023

Dear Steve,

Thank you for your letter, of 02 May 2023, regarding compensation for those infected and affected by the infected blood tragedy and registering bereaved families under the English Infected Blood Support Scheme (EIBSS).

As you know, the Infected Blood Inquiry is considering the nature and the adequacy of the treatment, care and support – including financial assistance – provided to those infected and affected.

The chair of the Inquiry, Sir Brian Langstaff, published the first interim report on interim compensation payments for victims on 29 July 2022. A second interim report on compensation was then published on 5 April 2023, and we expect the Inquiry's final report this autumn.

The Government accepts there is a moral case for compensation. On 17 August 2022, we announced interim payments of £100,000 to infected and bereaved partner beneficiaries of the current infected blood support schemes.

In England, these payments were made by the end of October 2022 for those already registered on the English Infected Blood Support Scheme. The Government also provided funding to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to process payments.

These interim payments recognised the urgent need of infected people and bereaved partners enrolled on the existing support schemes. They also meet, in full, the recommendations set out by Sir Brian in his first interim report.

In response to the second interim report, the Minister for the Cabinet Office made a statement to the House noting that 'the Government are progressing work to ensure that we are in the best possible position to respond fully at the end of the inquiry, every recommendation by Sir Brian, including in relation to timing and a further interim payment, is receiving intense focus.'

I want to assure you that the Department for Health and Social Care is working collaboratively and at pace with the Cabinet Office and other relevant departments to consider the recommendations outlined in Sir Brian's latest interim report.

As the Minister for the Cabinet Office made clear in his statement to the House on 19 April, we are determined to respond as soon as possible after the Inquiry concludes this autumn. However, this does not preclude earlier announcements as we progress our work.

Regarding registering bereaved families with the EIBSS, we are considering the second interim report's recommendation to make interim payments to bereaved families alongside the report's other recommendations. This complex matter may require coordination across the four nations' respective support schemes. I understand that time is of the essence for the infected and affected community, and we are progressing with this issue as a priority.

Thank you for writing on this important matter. I will keep you updated as work progresses.

Yours sincerely,



GRO-C

MARIA CAULFIELD