

Witness Name: **GRO-B**

Statement No.: WITN1150004

Exhibits: WITN1150005-6

Dated: 19 March 2025

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

EXHIBIT WITN1150005

GRO-B

24.02.2025

Paymaster General
Cabinet Office

ministerial.correspondence@cabinetoffice.gov.uk
ibiresponse@cabinetoffice.gov.uk

Dear Paymaster General,

Re: Infected Blood Compensation – Draft Legislation Supplementary Route Concern

I am writing to bring to your attention a significant omission in the draft second set of legislation for the infected blood compensation scheme. Specifically, I would like to highlight the exclusion of Myeloma from the group of illnesses.

There are key articles and research that indicates a strong link between Hepatitis C infection and the development of Myeloma (links to articles below). I am extremely disappointed that your clinical experts and civil servants have not undertaken appropriate research before putting forward the second set of legislation earlier this month. Myeloma has not been included in the group of illnesses as part of the supplementary route, which is a grave oversight. It begs the question how much work has really been undertaken to develop the list of illnesses, but also how much time and effort has gone into the draft legislation as a whole. You will well aware that the infected and affected community are relying on the second set of legislation as part of the compensation process, to see examples of the illness omission, as I have outlined, leads to a lack of confidence with the process and suggests a cost saving exercise is the objective, I really hope this is not the case.

I have personally experienced the devastating impact of the infected blood scandal. Having been infected with Hepatitis C at a very young age through infected blood products, I underwent interferon treatment, which was an extremely challenging and distressing experience. However, the situation worsened when I was diagnosed with Myeloma, a life-limiting cancer. This diagnosis has had a profound and devastating impact on my life and the lives of my family members.

The exclusion of Myeloma from the group of illnesses means that individuals like me, who have developed Myeloma as a result of Hepatitis C infection, will not receive the recognition and support that we desperately need. It is crucial that this oversight is rectified to ensure that all affected individuals are fairly compensated and supported.

Research has shown that chronic Hepatitis C infection can lead to the development of Myeloma, alongside other serious liver-related diseases. The virus's ability to cause chronic inflammation and immune system dysfunction plays a crucial role in the abnormal growth of white blood cells, which can result in Myeloma. Patients with both Hepatitis C and Myeloma often experience poorer survival rates compared to those without the infection.

Therefore, it is imperative that the government takes immediate action to rectify this oversight by including Myeloma within the group of illnesses. By doing so, the government can ensure that affected individuals receive the necessary compensation and support. Specifically, I urge the government to consider the following actions:

1. Formally recognise Myeloma as a condition linked to Hepatitis C infection.
2. Include Myeloma in the second set of infected blood compensation legislation to ensure patients receive appropriate financial support.
3. Raise awareness about the link between Hepatitis C and Myeloma among healthcare professionals and the general public to ensure timely diagnosis and treatment.

Addressing this issue will not only provide much-needed relief to those affected by Myeloma but also demonstrate the government's commitment to supporting individuals impacted by the infected blood scandal and its associated health complications.

Thank you for your attention with this urgent matter. I look forward to your response and the necessary steps that will be taken to include Myeloma within the group of illnesses as part of the supplementary route.

Yours sincerely,

GRO-B

Cc Sir Brian Langstaff, Chair Infected Blood Inquiry
Des Collins, Collins Solicitors
Kirith Entwistle, MP Bolton North East
Sir Robert Francis, Chair IBCA
David Foley, CEO IBCA
Clive Efford, Chair Haemophilia and Contaminated Blood APPG

Links to articles below

[Antiviral hope emerges as viruses linked to multiple myeloma](#)

[Hepatitis may trigger a treatable myeloma, researchers report](#)

https://healthtree.org/myeloma/community/articles/hepatitis-treatment-cures-myeloma?utm_source=social+media&utm_medium=facebook&utm_campaign=article&utm_content=general&fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR3PvLbHpQaTiqYcCdYTMO_4UiWv7HwMuV0_pCIJPhy74udzPHT_0WQByTM_aem_AU5qjt2yS_LrXXbYkwrREDxrN8ByWdV3ttZVqMvqumHDR_wjMjo91ymbodJH2cgzGEmcA28FpFblia1ZDC8RTJG-