

Witness Name: Simon Hamilton

Statement No: WITN2339012

Exhibits: WITN2339013-

WITN2339043

Dated: 25<sup>th</sup> August 2020

**INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY**

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**EXHIBIT WITN2339028**

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## Written questions and answers

**Q Asked by Paul Girvan (South Antrim)**

**Asked on: 05 June 2019**

**Department of Health and Social Care**

**Commons 261271**

### **Blood: Contamination**

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, with reference to the correspondence between the Prime Minister and Haemophilia Scotland in May 2019, what steps the Department is taking to provide people (a) infected and (b) affected by contaminated blood with a fair and transparent support scheme; and what steps he is taking to tackle the disparity in financial support across the Devolved Administrations.

**A Answered by: Jackie Doyle-Price**

**Answered on: 14 June 2019**

A major uplift was announced on 30 April 2019 to the financial support available to infected and affected beneficiaries registered with the infected blood support scheme in England.

As announced at that time, the Government is committed to working with its counterparts in the devolved administrations to look at the issue of parity of support across the United Kingdom. I have written to my counterparts in all the other devolved nations, including the Permanent Secretary of Northern Ireland, inviting them to meet to discuss this issue at the earliest opportunity. A date for this meeting is currently being sought.

**Q Asked by Paul Girvan (South Antrim)**

**Asked on: 04 June 2019**

**Department of Health and Social Care**

**Commons 260103**

### **Blood: Contamination**

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether there is a Barnett consequential to the existing Northern Ireland infected blood payment scheme.

**A Answered by: Jackie Doyle-Price**

**Answered on: 12 June 2019**

As stated in the letter sent to the Chair of the Infected Blood Inquiry on 30 April 2019, the Government is committed to working with its counterparts in the devolved administrations to look at the issue of parity of support across the United Kingdom. I have written to Richard Pengelly, Permanent Secretary at the Department of Health in Northern Ireland and other counterparts in the other devolved nations inviting them to meet to discuss this issue, and a date is currently being sought for this meeting to take place.

The recently announced £30 million uplift in payments in England will be coming from existing 2019/20 Department of Health and Social Care's non-National Health Service budget and is not a new allocation from HM Treasury. There is therefore no Barnett consequential arising from this for the existing Northern Ireland scheme.

Grouped Questions: 260104

**Q Asked by Paul Girvan (South Antrim)**

**Asked on: 04 June 2019**

**Department of Health and Social Care**

**Commons 260104**

### **Blood: Contamination**

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, with reference to the letter dated 30 April 2019 from the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Mental Health, Inequalities and Suicide Prevention to Sir Brian Langstaff, Chair of the Infected Blood Inquiry, and the reference in that letter to providing greater parity of support across the United Kingdom, what recent discussions his Department has held with the Department of Health for Northern Ireland.

**A Answered by: Jackie Doyle-Price**

**Answered on: 12 June 2019**

As stated in the letter sent to the Chair of the Infected Blood Inquiry on 30 April 2019, the Government is committed to working with its counterparts in the devolved administrations to look at the issue of parity of support across the United Kingdom. I have written to Richard Pengelly, Permanent Secretary at the Department of Health in Northern Ireland and other counterparts in the other devolved nations inviting them to meet to discuss this issue, and a date is currently being sought for this meeting to take place.

The recently announced £30 million uplift in payments in England will be coming from existing 2019/20 Department of Health and Social Care's non-National Health Service budget and is not a new allocation from HM Treasury. There is therefore no Barnett consequential arising from this for the existing Northern Ireland scheme.

Grouped Questions: 260103