

Witness Name: COLIN MIDGELEY

Statement No.: WITN3968002

Exhibits: None

Dated: 21 March 2025

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

SECOND WRITTEN STATEMENT OF COLIN MIDGELEY

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 10 March 2025.

I, Colin Midgeley, will say as follows:

Please describe the involvement of the people infected and affected in the decision-making regarding compensation (whether by Government or IBCA or both) as you have experienced it.

1. I don't really know how to answer this question. Since the Infected Blood Inquiry concluded and the findings were delivered to the public, the involvement and communication for IBCA and the government to us has been a one-way street. I have been campaigning for a number of years with different groups, and it has never been harder than it is now. I have called IBCA many times for advice as I am unsure of what to do. When I call IBCA I feel very belittled and my concerns or questions dismissed. I felt like I didn't matter and that I was scum. The way they have treated me and my family is horrendous. I have not been treated with any respect, rather with disgust.

2. When my dad died, an already traumatic time was made even worse by IBCA. We didn't apply for probate when dad died as we weren't sure we needed to and had never done it before. I was told that we should have registered my father's death and should have applied for probate. I was told that we may have even broken the law. This all added to the stress. The government and IBCA are meant to be there for support, but instead frightened us and made us feel worse. The advice I was given wasn't even correct.

Please describe the principal concerns which you have in relation to the involvement of people infected and affected in the decision-making regarding compensation (whether by Government or IBCA or both).

3. There has been no involvement. I have been doing this for many years and there has been no involvement from the government. I feel lost. There are all these statements and facts released from Parliament, but we still have nowhere to go. The pressure has been immense and caused me to have a breakdown last year. My dad should still be here but he isn't.
4. There has been no discussion from the government at all. We don't matter to the government. When my mother receives letters and updates from IBCA they come to me and I explain them to her. If IBCA or the government were actually interested in my views or that of my family, why have I not received a letter saying such.
5. My mum has cancer and is on borrowed time. The government knows that the longer they wait to pay out the compensation, the more people will die and the less money they will have to pay. My mum needs and deserves her compensation now, not in 2029. The doctors have told her she has between one and three years, potentially five if she is extremely lucky. People don't have the luxury of time to wait any longer for their compensation. My mum needs to be in a nursing home. She can't cook for herself; she struggles to walk and is in constant pain. When my mum first got her cancer diagnosis, she went into the nursing home. She is back home now because we cannot afford their fees.

My mum has spent her life looking after the family, her sons, and my dad. Now mum needs help, there is none. As a family, we didn't have money. Dad couldn't progress in his career due to his condition. Everything dad got was from hard work. Any help he received from the government, he had to beg for.

6. It's very hard to talk to people about what has happened. In the past we were told not to tell anyone. I believe that the government is trying to silence us again by trying to impose gagging orders on our lawyers.
7. I recently tried to request my dad's medical records. Dad was treated at several hospitals in London. When I phoned these hospitals, I was asked to provide the dates he received treatment and what wards he received treatment in. I don't know the answers to these questions. At every step in this process there is another hurdle to overcome. People have been burnt out by this. The government and IBCA have made the compensation process so difficult and so depressing for people. The mental impact of this all is horrendous. I am having trauma counselling once a week due to the trauma the entire process has put me through.
8. During the Inquiry, I met Keir Starmer in Parliament. He promised me that as soon as he got into power, he would bring this to an end. Despite this, he is still making my family and I beg for every penny. One of the quotes from Keir Starmer on the 21st May 2024 was 'Politics itself has failed you'. Politics has failed us and continues to fail us now. We are used as political pawns every time. When Sir Brian Langstaff delivered his findings, I sat behind the Paymaster General. We spoke about my mother and my family, and he said it will be fine and it will all be sorted. When he submitted his statement to Parliament it was all just rubbish.
9. I have tried, since, to contact Keir Starmer but cannot. How can you get in front of someone with such stature? He wanted my vote before the election, but now he is in power, he doesn't care. I have previously attempted to contact him through my MP. My previous MP was conservative and made it was all very hard going. After the election, my local MP changed but I don't know anything

about them. I've sent emails to my MP to try to facilitate meeting Keir Starmer again but none of them have been responded to.

Are there any particular steps or measures which you consider could be taken by Government, IBCA or both to alleviate any detrimental impact upon people infected and affected? If so, please set them out.

10. IBCA and the government need to stop making people jump through hoops. I would love for Sir Brian Langstaff to re-open the Inquiry in order to find out what the government has been doing since the Inquiry finished. To me, it doesn't look like the government has been doing much.
11. The government announced they have £11.8 billion to pay out. They paid out 10 people at the end of the year 2024 and celebrated. It is disgraceful that they had only paid so little. The government should hang their heads in shame. Another 255 people have been invited to bring a claim, but it's still not a lot considering how many infected and affected people there are. The government has had over a year since the Inquiry concluded and I feel like they are stalling.
12. Even if the government cannot settle the entire issue now, then I believe meaningful interim payments for the entire community would help. It would be for people like my mum, so we can pay for her care home without worrying. To pay meaningful interim payments for everyone that is due them. The government is causing arguments between different campaigning groups but splitting us into different categories and paying us the compensation at different times. We need hope that this will come to a conclusion soon.
13. The government has done such a bad thing and they should be holding people's hands through this ordeal. There should be a 24 hours helpline set up by IBCA where people are genuinely there to listen and to assist us. It would be similar to the Samaritans. When I called IBCA, they didn't treat me like a person but as an inconvenience. They move you to different departments and no one is bothered enough to listen to me or to help me. There should be

somewhere we can go, someone we can call to tell us what to do, but there isn't. We didn't ask for this. We feel like we've been thrown into this, told the situation and just to get on with it. We're not trained. We don't know what we're doing. There needs to be a helpline with empathy, someone that understands and can provide me with an answer. This isn't right for my family or for anyone else's family.

14. We need more transparency and communication from the government and IBCA. When I look for something online and google it, not all the sources are reliable. We need to trust the government, and at the moment we do not. If you haven't got trust, you haven't got anything. During the scandal, the government tried to hide everything, they destroyed documents to cover it up. This generated huge distrust which remains to this day. The government could have made steps to rebuild this trust, but they haven't. The government says they're sorry but haven't done anything to show this. When I was growing up, we lived in fear knowing that my dad was extremely ill. We lived in fear all our lives of other people finding out. The burden that it has put on my family and I to stay quiet and pretend it's not happening has been horrendous.
15. We trust the government to look after us throughout our entire lives. The government didn't do that for my family. The government used my family as a guinea pig and they're still not helping my family now. From the early days of the scandal until now, what has actually changed? The government is still deceitful, they are still lying, and they are still making people jump through hoops. All the government has done is add to the stress and the distrust. The government murdered people en masse but can still dictate the compensation process.
16. This is about my dad's death. This is a real person and a real family. The government needs to stop making people suffer. This is a life that the government destroyed. I didn't expect to still be fighting after all this time.

Statement of Truth

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signature GRO-C

Dated 31-03-2025

Table of exhibits:

Date	Notes/ Description	Exhibit number