

Witness Name: Jeremy Quin

Statement No. WITN7526002

Exhibits: WITN7526003

Dated: 05 July 2023

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

2ND WRITTEN STATEMENT OF RT HON JEREMY QUIN MP

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 5 June 2023.

I, Jeremy Quin, will say as follows: -

Section 1:

1. I have previously provided a witness statement to this inquiry in which I set out the nature of the introductory briefing I received from the Cabinet Office ("CO") Inquiries Sponsor Team (please see paragraph 7 of **WITN7526001**). I took up my current role on 25 October 2022. I have been asked what steps I have taken to understand the impact of waiting for recognition of individual losses on people infected and affected by the use of infected blood and blood products.
2. I have read the study produced by Sir Robert Francis and the interim reports issued by the Inquiry and am grateful to both for their assiduous interaction with the community in undertaking their work. On 30 November 2022 I met Dame Diana Johnson and Sir Peter Bottomley, the co-Chairs of the All-Party Parliamentary Group ("APPG") on haemophilia and contaminated blood. Dame Diana and Sir Peter described the frustrations felt by the infected and affected community, and the importance they placed on Sir Robert's recommendations.

3. I held a second meeting with Dame Diana and Sir Peter on 6 June 2023. I am also most grateful to them for chairing a meeting held in the Houses of Parliament on 7 March 2023, where I was able to meet and talk to more than 30 representatives from the infected and affected communities, and listen to their views on compensation, including about the anxiety and frustration they feel while the wait for final compensation continues. I have received over 90 letters from Members of Parliament writing on behalf of infected and affected constituents, and heard views expressed on behalf of their constituents in two statements I have made in the House of Commons (on 15 December 2022 and 19 April 2023) and in responding to a debate in the House on 22 June 2023. In addition, on 7 June 2023, I met virtually the Devolved Administrations (the Health Ministers of Scotland and Wales and the Permanent Secretary of the Department of Health of the Northern Ireland Executive). I hope that I can say that I have a deep understanding of the strength of feeling amongst the people directly affected by the tragedy, and the need to find a resolution for them as quickly as possible.
4. I have been asked more specifically about paragraph 11 of my first statement in which I confirmed that "*no decisions have been taken on what a final scheme might look like, nor have options been presented to me at this stage*". I can confirm that the ongoing cross-government work is looking in detail at the compensation scheme proposed in the Inquiry's second interim report and the study produced by Sir Robert Francis KC and other options.
5. Work is continuing and has not concluded. Some of the issues with which we are contending in finalising options for a government decision I set out in my response to the Parliamentary debate on 22 June. These include consideration of the best way to effectively deliver compensation across the UK, including whether primary legislation is necessary, and working through the estimated associated costs for the public sector.
6. I wrote to the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 5 December 2022. That letter was written under cover of collective responsibility ahead of my update to the

House of Commons on 15 December 2022, and would not usually have been made public. I have been asked about that letter in which I confirmed that work was underway to provide a full response to the compensation framework study. I can confirm that work was being progressed with the intention of being able to respond as soon as possible after the publication of the Inquiry's final report, then expected from June 2023 or to make an earlier statement on progress in respect of Sir Robert's study if possible. I exhibit a copy of that letter at the inquiry's request [WITN7526003] noting that it is already in the public domain.

7. I can also confirm, as stated above and highlighted in the debate of 22 June 2023, that this work is not complete. There are a significant number of issues to resolve including those outlined in the debate and noted in paragraph 4 above.
8. Having enhanced my understanding of the issue in November 2022, I was keen to set a challenging internal deadline to complete consideration of the Sir Robert Francis study's recommendations by May 2023, as set out in my letter of 5 December 2022. That timetable had to be revised in recognition of the complex interconnections between the different recommendations and the need to agree a position across government that will understand the fiscal consequences and deliver a trusted and effective scheme. Official meetings were formulated at a senior level under the Chair of the then Second Permanent Secretary to the Cabinet Office. The first meeting of senior officials was held on 30 November 2022 and the second on 2 February 2023. After an initial focus on an update statement to Parliament, on 15 December 2022, I was keen to maintain momentum. In early January 2023 I asked for more frequent briefing from CO officials. It was also agreed that the Department for Health and Social Care ("DHSC") would establish a new team to undertake analysis of the cost and scale of implementing a scheme (as envisaged in my last witness statement). Recognising the benefits of officials' work being overseen through a coordinated approach at ministerial level, I sought the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster's agreement to stand up a Small Ministerial Group ("SMG") bringing together the relevant departments at that level. The Group's terms of reference are to:

- i. Prepare and oversee the execution of government action in relation to the Infected Blood tragedy;
- ii. Build on work at official level by providing cross-government coordination on the response to Sir Robert Francis KC's report, the further interim report of the Inquiry related to compensation, and the delivery of compensation to victims of infected blood; and
- iii. Coordinate the government response to the Inquiry report when received.

9. The SMG met for the first time on 22 February 2023, and has met four times since (with meetings on 8 March, 3 May, 23 May and 14 June 2023). Representation at the SMG usually includes, but is not limited, to His Majesty's Treasury and the Department of Health and Social Care. Following the establishment of the SMG, I also increased the CO resources focussed on the response to the Inquiry helping to support the wider government response. The Second Permanent Secretary resigned on 2 March and her role was replaced by the CO Permanent Secretary and the enhanced CO team. The SMG is supported by cross-Government meetings of senior officials where necessary. This group is held at Permanent Secretary level, and has met three times (on 2 March, 27 March and 26 April 2023). I also met Scottish and Welsh Health Ministers and the NI Department of Health Permanent Secretary on 12 June 2023 to discuss the second interim report¹.

10. Finally, I have been asked when the government intends to provide a substantive response to the second interim report. I have outlined above some of the ongoing work since the second interim report and the compensation framework study. CO is characteristically a convening department, that is to say that CO pulls together the relevant departments which are required to deliver a particular piece of work. I have no doubt that the final report from the inquiry will be of great assistance to the government in deciding its response to all aspects of the Infected Blood scandal, taking into account the many competing factors facing departments and in the wider context of public spending. The

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/joint-communique-on-the-infected-blood-inquiry>

government is taking positive steps towards ensuring it is ready to respond once the inquiry's final report is received.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

GRO-C

Dated

3/7/2023

Table of exhibits:

Date	Notes/ Description	Exhibit number
05.12.2022	Letter from Rt Hon Jeremy Quin MP to Chancellor of the Exchequer	WITN7526003