



Rt. Hon. N. H. Brown, MP

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Please quote this reference in any correspondence

Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP
Secretary of State for Health
Department for Health
Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London SW1A 2NS

20 January 2015

Dear Jeremy,

Re: Contaminated Blood Issues

I am writing to you on behalf of a number of constituents who have contacted me regarding the Government's position in relation to the contaminated blood scandal. There are strong, and I believe justified, calls from the contaminated blood community for Government to look properly into this matter and take steps to work towards a full and final settlement for victims and their families.

At present, compensation and assistance is provided to victims through two private companies and three charities, via arms-length funding from the Department of Health. It is widely argued by the contaminated blood community that this assistance is haphazard and far from comprehensive. With the recent Backbench Business debate on the matter and the recently published APPG on Haemophilia and Contaminated Blood Report looking at the existing support system, the issue is very much on the public agenda. Furthermore, the Penrose Inquiry is looking into this matter in Scotland.

I would be grateful if you could let me know the Government's current position in this matter and what steps it plans to take following the Backbench debate, in relation to the APPG Report and to the Penrose Inquiry when it reports in March.

I would also like to raise the issue of the Bereavement Allowance for those who have lost a partner to this scandal. I understand that recent changes have been made in relation to the armed forces bereavement payments so that if a widow/widower finds a new partner they will not forfeit the payment. However, I am informed that this is not yet the case for the partners of those who died from receiving contaminated blood. Is the Government considered extending this change to those affected by contaminated blood too?

Yours sincerely

Rt Hon Nick Brown MP
Newcastle upon Tyne East

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