

The UK's leading HIV and sexual health charity



Will Quince MP
Minister for Health and Secondary Care
Department of Health and Social Care
39 Victoria Street
London. SW1H 0EU

6 March 2023

Dear Mr Quince,

I am writing to you with reference to your role as sponsor of NHS Business Services Authority and specifically the English Infected Blood Support Schemes (EIBSS). As you will be aware the EIBSS provides the ex gratia payments for those infected with HIV as a result of the contaminated blood scandal and the widows of the many who died as a result of being infected.

Our team at Terrence Higgins Trust who work with these members of the HIV community have received a significant number of calls from people distressed at the lack of communication around the annual CPI uplift. We have spoken to EIBSS directly about this. They have informed us that they will not receive the information about the annual CPI uplift until the end of the month. The increase is due to come into force at the start of next month. This delay, we believe, will mean that EIBSS is now in breach of its own service level agreement with beneficiaries who should have received this information at least 6 weeks in advance of the 1 April.

Can you therefore please confirm that EIBSS payments will increase by 10.1% on the 1 April 2023? In addition, confirm that the funding given to the devolved nations' Infected Blood Support Schemes will also be increased to allow these payments to also be made in line with CPI?

The situation for the infected blood community is already stressful as they are waiting for the Infected Blood Inquiry to report and for the government to make progress on compensation. A swift reply on this would be appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R Angell".

Richard Angell
Chief Executive

CC: The Rt Hon Jeremy Quin MP
Paymaster General and Minister for the Cabinet Office

Patrons include:

Lord Black of Brentwood
Simon Callow CBE
Lord Cashman CBE
Julian Clary
Martin Clunes
Dame Judi Dench
Tracey Emin CBE
Lord Fowler
Sonia Friedman CBE
Stephen Fry
Paul Gambaccini
Lord Glendonbrook CBE
Charles Hart
Sir Elton John
Lord Kirkwood of Kirkhope
Beverley Knight MBE
Canon Doctor Paul Oestreicher
Professor Anthony Pinching
Danny Rampling
Gaby Roslin
Dr Miriam Stoppard OBE
Dr Rupert Whitaker OBE
Tony Whitehead MBE
Johnny Wynne-Williams