

The UK's leading HIV and sexual health charity

Sir Brian Langstaff
Infected Blood Inquiry
5th Floor
Aldwych House
71-91 Aldwych
London
WC2B 4HN

16 May 2023

Dear Sir Brian,

Firstly I would like to thank you and your team at the Inquiry for your comprehensive second Interim Report. Its direction and the actions you are recommending that the government take on compensation are clear.

It is a matter of regret that the government is yet to offer any real response to the report. Subsequent "off the record" press briefing have left me feeling concerned. But my concern is nothing compared to the anxiety and stress this is causing those infected and affected – I have heard this first hand.

Last week I attended The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Haemophilia and Contaminated Blood. As you would expect, there was a high level of frustration about the lack of progress on compensation and the very limited communication coming from the government around this. There was general agreement at the meeting that, if possible, there would be immense value in you calling those who have responsibility for delivering compensation to give evidence to the inquiry. At the moment, Members of Parliament are having to try and force information out of the government on this, which is neither desirable nor helpful for the infected blood community having any faith in this process.

To try and maintain some level of confidence from the community, I would suggest that you ask for maximum disclosure in both oral and written evidence for any additional people you choose to call to give evidence, including any text or WhatsApp communication on this subject.

I would like to suggest that you consider calling the following people to give evidence:

- Those who have held the post of Paymaster General since 24 July 2019.
- Recall of the now Chancellor of the Exchequer and those who have held the post since 24 July 2019
- Those who have held the post of Prime Minister since 24 July 2019
- Sue Gray – until recently chaired the cross-departmental group at permanent secretary level on implementing the compensation framework
- Brian Williams - Head of the Cabinet Office Inquiries Sponsor Team
- The Second Permanent Secretary at the Department of Health and Social Care.

Transparency and the daylight of the Inquiry has been the best way to date of getting clarity and action from the government in relation to the contaminated blood issue. We hope this can be impactful again and get the work of compensation expedited.

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

Thank you for the incredibly important work you are doing.

Very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R Angell". The letter "R" is stylized with a large loop and a crossbar that extends to the left. The word "Angell" is written in a cursive, slightly slanted font.

Richard Angell
Chief Executive