



Aldwych House
5th Floor
71-91 Aldwych House
London
WC2 4HN

The Rt Hon Nick Thomas-Symonds MP
Paymaster General and Minister for the Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
London SW1A 2AS

13 November 2024

Dear Minister,

I have been concerned by the letters I have received from siblings who would be ineligible for compensation according to the summary published on 23 August 2024. People who find themselves in this situation have written to me to say that they feel that no-one in authority is listening.

I would like to correct the suggestion which has been made to some siblings that the Inquiry's recommendations in the second interim report limited the eligibility of siblings by age, cohabitation or any other factor. My report reads:

Inquiry Recommendation 4: I recommend that the following relevant affected persons should be admitted to the scheme:

...

d) siblings of an eligible living or deceased infected person;

The Inquiry's Recommendation 4d modified the proposal in the **Compensation Framework Study** for "*siblings living, while under the age of 18, as a family with an eligible infected person*". When Sir Robert Francis gave evidence to the Inquiry in July 2022 he was asked about siblings who would not fit this criteria and he pointed to his recommendation for a further category of "*members of the family ... whose relationship with them was so close that it could reasonably be expected that their*

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mental or physical health would be seriously affected by the consequences of the disease, and who has in fact suffered a mental or physical injury as a result.”

When the final report of the Infected Blood Inquiry Response Expert Group was published, Professor Sir Jonathan Montgomery noted as Chair that their terms of reference did not permit them to take evidence directly from people infected and affected.

The evidence published by the Inquiry shows that some siblings were significantly affected by the infections in a wide variety of circumstances which go beyond the current eligibility criteria.

The reason that the Inquiry’s recommendation differed from the Compensation Framework Study by omitting the limiting criteria Sir Robert Francis suggested is that the Inquiry’s recommendation was informed by the written and oral evidence I received.

Siblings spoke about the often devastating impact of infections on their lives and their families. Indeed, the Inquiry’s very first witness powerfully described the impact of his younger brother’s death from AIDS aged 23 and how his family was torn apart. No-one watching him give evidence could have failed to feel his palpable distress.

Some people gave evidence to the Inquiry on behalf of their deceased brother or sister because parents and partners were too distressed to do so, or had themselves died, and now find that there is no official recognition for their own loss.

I should be grateful for your personal engagement on this issue.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian J Langstaff". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Sir Brian Langstaff

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