

ANDY BURNHAM

**MAYOR OF
GREATER
MANCHESTER**

The Rt. Hon. Jeremy Hunt MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury
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27th July, 2023

Dear Chancellor,

Last August we wrote together as former Health Secretaries to the then Prime Minister calling for interim compensation payments to be quickly made to victims of the infected blood scandal. We wrote that letter along with The Rt. Hon Matt Hancock MP because we all appreciated that a failure to act and act quickly would continue the injustice thus far handed out by the state to this group of innocent victims.

When you appeared on The Today Programme to discuss the letter you were clear about how important it was to resolve the question of compensation. As you said “We should do it right away. We’ve waited far too long. Successive governments, which I was part of one, didn’t act as quickly as they should have, and we need to recognise this as a terrible, terrible injustice”. Your words are as true today as they were last year. At least another 100 victims have sadly passed away since we wrote that letter. Like thousands of others, they died without the closure that full compensation and justice can bring.

You are now back in government. You have the power to right the wrongs of the past. You will give evidence again to the inquiry on tomorrow. When you last gave evidence, you talked about the shared responsibility that those of us who have served in government have in terms of how long it has taken to resolve the infected blood scandal. Your words now as Chancellor can bring either hope or despair to those whose lives have been so damaged as a result of what we know is the worst treatment disaster in the history of the NHS.

I implore you to take this opportunity to let the infected blood community know that they still have you as an ally fighting in their corner. They need to know that you have earmarked funding for compensation. That the present financial situation,

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which is not their fault, will not be a barrier to them receiving what they deserve.
Finally, that you will use your good offices as Chancellor to ensure that the
compensation scheme will be in place for when the inquiry issues its full report later
in the year.

Yours sincerely,

GRO-C

Andy Burnham

Mayor of Greater Manchester

Former Secretary of State for Health

CC: Kate Burt, Chief Executive, The Haemophilia Society
Richard Angell, Chief Executive, Terrence Higgins Trust
Rachel Halford, Chief Executive, The Hepatitis C Trust