

The HIV and sexual health charity for life

Rt. Hon Boris Johnson PM,
10 Downing St,
London
SW1A 2AA

12 August 2022

Dear Prime Minister

Thank you for the work undertaken on the infected blood scandal during your term of office. Both the harmonisation and levelling up of payments for widows across the UK and the commissioning of the compensation framework study have been significant steps forward. . Today's announcement that interim compensation will be paid, is a watershed moment. It will not be forgotten that with these interim payments, you are the first occupant of Number 10 who has done the right thing and started the process of compensating this community.

With regards to the interim payments, I believe that the overwhelming majority of the infected members of the community are known to the infected blood support schemes. However, there is still a significant group of widows who have yet to register. As debate about this payment has increased, our staff members who work with the infected blood community have been receiving a large number of calls from widows who aren't registered with the schemes. We expect this to increase. Therefore, I am requesting that widows not registered with existing schemes can make the necessary arrangements in the run up to, and post, the payments being made.

While payments are arranged for infected members of the community and widows, we need the government to start the process of registering the partners, parents, siblings and children of those infected. Interim payments should be made to this group within 12 months.

Based on the evidence given to date to the Infected Blood Inquiry, this group's exclusion from support schemes does appear to have been an error. Those tasked with setting up the schemes were not aware of the deed under which the then government established the Macfarlane Trust – the original support scheme for those with haemophilia and bleeding disorders impacted by HIV in the infected blood community.

I'm sure it isn't hard for either of us to imagine the lifelong devastation of losing a child or parent, made so much worse as a result of having to fight for decades to find out why, let alone get justice. Compensation will never make up for the damage done to the infected blood community, it cannot remove the loss, hurt and trauma but it will allow those who have suffered so much to move forward with their lives.

Today, you gave people some sense that justice will be served. In your remaining weeks please make sure it is progress for everyone in this repeatedly failed community.

Yours sincerely,



Ian Green
Chief Executive

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