



Rt Hon Michael Ellis QC MP
HM Paymaster General
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Sir Brian Langstaff
Infected Blood Inquiry
Aldwych House
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Our reference: MC2021/18975

23 September 2021

Dear Sir Brian,

As you will know, on 20 May my predecessor announced the appointment of Sir Robert Francis QC to carry out a study to look at options for a framework for compensation for victims of infected blood and to make recommendations before the independent Infected Blood Inquiry reports. She also announced that the terms of reference of this study would be finalised following consultation between Sir Robert and those infected and affected. The consultation has now concluded and Sir Robert has made his recommendations.

Sir Robert's consultation received a very positive response from the infected and affected community, including 447 formal responses (including many of the legal representatives of infected and affected core participants in the Inquiry), along with over 150 further representations, primarily personal stories from the infected and affected on how this tragedy has affected their lives, which were of great assistance to Sir Robert in reviewing the draft Terms of Reference.

I share my predecessor's view that Sir Robert's recommendations identify the key issues that the study should consider, and that they offer assurance to the infected and affected communities that the matters of most concern to them will be considered by the Study. I am therefore happy to accept Sir Robert's recommendations in full and to publish the attached terms of reference without amendment.

Importantly, the terms of reference recognise that it is not for the Study to pre-empt the findings and determinations of your Inquiry; as my predecessor wrote to you, it is not the intention of the Study to interfere with the work of the inquiry or compromise its findings in any way.

Sir Robert's aim is to complete his study by the end of February 2022, and I know that you anticipate hearing from Sir Robert after his recommendations are published. In the meantime, I would like to thank you and your team for the work you are doing and to reaffirm the Government's support for your important inquiry.

Yours sincerely,



**Rt Hon Michael Ellis QC MP
HM PAYMASTER GENERAL**