

Witness Name: David Cameron
Statement No.: WITN3903001
Exhibits: WITN3903002- WITN3903006
Dated: 18 February 2020

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF DAVID CAMERON

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 29 November 2019.

I, David Cameron, will say as follows: -

Section 1: Introduction

1. My name is David Cameron. My date of birth is GRO-C 1966. My address is C/O The Government Legal Department, 102 Petty France, Westminster, London SW1H 9GL. I am a former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.
2. As a constituency Member of Parliament ("MP") between June 2001 and September 2016 I met with victims of the scandal in which NHS patients were given infected blood. I came to know their deep suffering and the human cost of a tragedy that never should have happened.
3. I also met with victims in my role as Prime Minister, between May 2010 and July 2016. One such meeting was with Mr Burgess, witness W1122, on 12 November 2013.

Section 2: Responses to criticism of W1122

4. I remember the meeting, and its purpose was manifold. I was told of the victims' sincere wish for a full apology from Government; I was made further aware of the

serious flaws in the current payments system at that time, one that was fragmented, inconsistent and demeaning; and I was reminded of the desire of many for a full public inquiry into the scandal.

5. I believed it was right for me to apologise for the scandal on behalf of the Government, and I did so on 25 March 2015, during Prime Minister's Questions ("PMQs").
6. I also believed it was right that a payments system was made fit for purpose. So as well as the apology, during the same PMQs I committed an extra £25 million for victims and announced a consultation into how best to spend that money and, crucially, reform the payments system.
7. During the consultation I was sent a series of proposals by the Department of Health. However, I was not satisfied these would ensure sufferers gained from the new system. Indeed, I was worried – as campaigners were, and as Mr Burgess puts it in his evidence – that the proposed approach would actually take money away from some people.
8. In the written submissions that were sent to me from the Department via my private secretary I instructed officials to come up with a more generous package. I also repeatedly informed them that I would not agree to anything where sufferers lost out. I exhibit the submission dated 5 July 2015 **WITN3903002** upon which I wrote "*A scheme that is meant to help but actually takes money away from people is hopeless*".
9. I exhibit a further submission which demonstrates the development of the scheme as **WITN3903003** and I note that on the submission dated 18 December 2015 **WITN3903004** I wrote "*Don't take money way from existing people – that will not work.*"
10. It also became clear the initial sum that was proposed, of £25 million, was not sufficient to ensure that no sufferers lost out.
11. After going backwards and forwards with the Department over many months, evident in **WITN3903005** and **WITN3903006**, I was happy with the package that was eventually worked up: Government would spend a further £125 million on a scheme

that would be fairer, more comprehensive and for the first time guarantee for all those affected a regular annual payment. I announced this on 13 July 2016, during my final PMQs.

Section 3: Other Issues

12. At the time I did not agree to a public inquiry, simply because I believed all efforts should be focused on getting the victims the help they deserved. However, with an inquiry underway, I wholeheartedly support Sir Brian and his team in their endeavours and I pay tribute to Mr Burgess and his fellow campaigners for continuing to raise awareness about this tragic issue.

Statement of Truth

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed GRO-C

Dated 3/5/2020

Table of exhibits:

Date	Notes/ Description	Exhibit number
05/07/2015	Contaminated Blood next steps submission to PM with PM's handwritten comments	WITN3903002
13/07/2015	Revised Contaminated Blood Consultation submission to PM with PM's handwritten comments	WITN3903003
18/12/2015	Consultation on Reform of Contaminated Blood submission to PM with PM's handwritten comments	WITN3903004
13/01/2016	Final Package for Contaminated Blood submission to PM with PM's handwritten comments	WITN3903005
05/07/2016	Contaminated Blood – Introduction of new scheme submission to PM with PM's handwritten comments	WITN3903006