



Rt Hon Penny Mordaunt MP
Paymaster General
Cabinet Office 70 Whitehall London
SW1A 2AS

Sir Brian Langstaff
Infected Blood Inquiry
Fleetbank House
1st Floor
2-6 Salisbury Square
London
EC4Y 8AE

Our reference: MC2021/07366

30 March 2021

Dear Sir Brian,

I am writing to update you on the progress we have made on parity of financial support for individuals infected and affected by this issue and our commitment to consider a framework of compensation before the Inquiry reports in 2022.

Cabinet Office and Department for Health and Social Care Ministers have publicly committed to addressing the UK-wide disparities in financial support for victims of infected blood and Health ministers across the UK have agreed in principle to resolve the disparities. I am therefore pleased to announce that a number of important changes have been agreed to bring the national support schemes into broader parity. Increases in annual payments will be backdated to April 2019. Where lump sum payments are being increased, this will apply to all current scheme members. Further details are included in my statement to Parliament, which I attach.

We have agreed with health Ministers that any future changes to national schemes would be subject to consultation between the UK Government and devolved administrations, to mitigate the risk of geographic disparities occurring in future.

I have announced that I will appoint an independent reviewer to carry out a study, looking at options for a framework for compensation, and to report back to me with recommendations. Work to appoint the independent reviewer is at an advanced stage and I will make a further announcement on this as soon as this is ready.

The study is entirely separate from your inquiry; it will not duplicate the work of the Inquiry, or cut across the Inquiry's findings. The study will provide me with advice on potential compensation framework design and solutions which can be ready to implement upon the conclusion of the Inquiry, should the Inquiry's findings and recommendations require it.

I would like to thank you and your team for the way the Inquiry has managed to continue its work throughout the last 12 months, despite the challenges presented by COVID-19, and for the way you have consistently put the interests of the infected and affected victims at the heart of your decision-making when dealing with significant logistical and planning challenges.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Penny Mordaunt', written in a cursive style.

Rt Hon Penny Mordaunt MP
PAYMASTER GENERAL