

Professor Stephen J. W. Evans  
Convenor, Statistics Expert Group

Sir Brian Langstaff  
Chair, Infected Blood Inquiry

27 June 2022

Dear Sir Brian,

I am writing to update you on the approach the statistics expert group proposes to take ahead of publishing our report and giving evidence this autumn.

Our starting point was naturally the Inquiry's terms of reference:

To ascertain, as far as practicable, the likely numbers of people who have been infected (directly or indirectly) in consequence of:

- a. the use of infected blood; and
- b. the use of infected blood products

I attended the preliminary hearings with Professor Sheila Bird. We noted from your remarks, and those of a number of core participants the significant uncertainty about the numbers of people infected, in particular through blood transfusions, and the importance of estimating the number of people not yet diagnosed.

The Inquiry's letter of instruction was issued at a stage when much of the evidence and data had not yet been analysed by the Inquiry team and so we appreciate the instruction to approach matters as we see fit in light of the evidence and data available to us.

I am grateful that the Inquiry team identified evidence that could be of relevance to the group throughout the period when many members of the expert group were contributing to the national and international response to COVID-19.

We have now focused on where we believe the statistics expert group can best assist the Inquiry.

We propose that the report we publish in September should set out, based on the most reliable data available and with clearly stated assumptions, the likely ranges for the numbers of people who have been infected through blood and blood products, and, where possible, their subsequent mortality. We will also publish the statistical models we have created.

I understand from the Inquiry team that the evidence has touched on a number of statistical issues during the course of the Inquiry's hearings. We will explain any relevant statistical principles of interest in our report and when we give evidence at a hearing in early October.

I should be grateful for confirmation that you are content with this approach, and for any further direction you may wish to provide ahead of submission of our report.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Stephen J. W. Evans  
Convenor, Statistics Expert Group