



Department
of Health &
Social Care

*From Jackie Doyle Price MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Mental Health,
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Sir Brian Langstaff
Chair, Infected Blood Inquiry
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30 April 2019

Dear Sir Brian,

I write to you following the meeting that the Infected Blood Inquiry facilitated on 21 January between myself, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, and representatives of the infected and affected.

We heard very clear representations at the meeting that the current financial support arrangements need to be improved upon, to ensure that the thousands of individuals and families affected by this tragedy are properly and equitably supported. This echoed what you yourself set out in your letter of 15 October 2018 to the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

At the meeting, we agreed to provide the Inquiry with a response before the next session of the Inquiry's hearings, which begin tomorrow.

I am pleased to tell you that a major uplift in the financial support available to infected and affected beneficiaries of the infected blood support scheme in England is being announced today. I am sorry that I have not been able to inform you of this sooner.

The current annual cost of the scheme is estimated at £46.3m per annum and we expect this will increase to over £75m to provide for these uplifted payments. The level of support provided to all infected beneficiaries will increase. In addition, the upper threshold level of household income currently used to

means-test support provided for the bereaved will also be substantially raised allowing more bereaved beneficiaries to be eligible for additional support from the scheme.

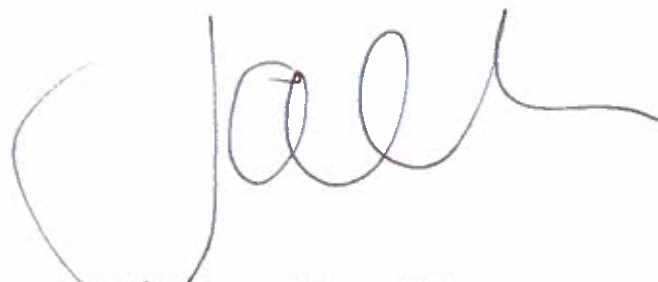
All beneficiaries will be sent a letter by the NHS Business Services Authority this week setting out the details of the changes and the impact they will have on them. This detailed payment information will also be made available on NHSBSA's website. All new payments will be backdated to 1 April 2019.

I have also announced my intention to approach the devolved administrations to look at how we might provide greater parity of support across the United Kingdom, which we have heard very clearly is a major issue.

I hope that this announcement reconfirms the Government's commitment to providing those affected by the infected blood tragedy of the 1970s and 1980s with a fair and transparent support scheme, one which focusses on their welfare and long-term independence.

I would like to finish by reaffirming my Department's commitment to listening closely to, and cooperating fully with, the Infected Blood Inquiry as it moves forward with its work.

I am copying this letter to the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, and Diana Johnson MP and Peter Bottomley MP, co-Chairs of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Haemophilia and Contaminated Blood. I am also copying to the Haemophilia Society, with whom the Prime Minister has previously corresponded on this issue, and Haemophilia Scotland, who has written on behalf of those who attended January's meeting, quite rightly seeking an update on this issue.



JACKIE DOYLE-PRICE