

Minister for Public Health and Women's Health
Jenni Minto MSP

T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Clare Haughey MSP,
Convener,
Health, Social Care and Sport Committee,
The Scottish Parliament
hscs.committee@parliament.scot

14 May 2025

Dear Convener,

I am writing to provide the Committee with a further update on the Scottish Government's (SG's) response to the recommendations of the Infected Blood Inquiry (IBI), which were published in May 2024. This update follows my letters to you of 28 June and 17 December 2024, the first of which updated mainly on issues in relation to infected blood compensation, and the second of which provided an update on the publication of the first UK Government (UKG) report setting out progress made in implementing the IBI's recommendations.

The UKG has today published a second progress report in line with the IBI recommendation 12, which requires UKG, within 12 months of publication, to consider and either commit to implementing the recommendations, or give sufficient reason why it is not considered appropriate to implement any one or more of them. I can confirm that, along with the other UK nations and as per the first report, SG was fully involved in the production of this second report. The report can be found at: [Full Government Response to the Infected Blood Inquiry's May 2024 Report - GOV.UK](#).

As I set out in my previous letters, the IBI's findings are very concerning and, whilst many of the issues raised have thankfully already been addressed to ensure the safety of blood components and improve patient safety more widely, more progress still needs to be made. As a result, the first UKG report already made clear that SG accepted, in full or in principle, all of the IBI recommendations directed at Scottish organisations. Since December, further progress has been tracked by the [Oversight and Assurance Group](#) (OAG), which was established by SG to ensure progress in taking forward the IBI's recommendations. The

Tha Ministearan na h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus an Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh www.lobbying.scot

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

Taigh Naomh Anndrais, Rathad Regent, Dùn Èideann EH1 3DG
St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
www.gov.scot

<https://www.nhsinform.scot>



INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE

Accredited
Until 2020



OAG has now met six times and the minutes can be found on the SG website. The further progress made by the OAG in supporting implementation of the recommendations, building on that set out in the first report, is now set out in the second UKG report. In particular the report notes that, since December, SG has:

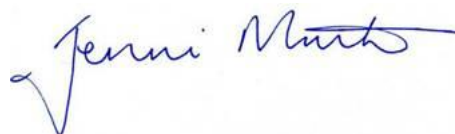
- Agreed funding specifically for patient advocacy for 2025-26 for Haemophilia Scotland and the Scottish Infected Blood Forum.
- Provided funding to the Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service to update and expand the capabilities of its existing Account for Blood system, which will allow for improved surveillance of blood usage and outcomes across Scotland.
- Continued working with the City of Edinburgh Council and campaigners to ensure a Scottish memorial to infected blood victims is in place as soon as is feasible.

The second UKG report also includes information on progress being made on recommendations being taken forward at UK level, such as on the provision of compensation to infected blood victims. In this respect, the report notes that SG and the Scottish Infected Blood Support Scheme have continued to ensure additional interim compensation is paid to infected hepatitis C and HIV victims in Scotland and that estates of many of those who sadly died have been able to claim interim compensation payments of £100,000.

SG is also continuing to work closely with UKG and the new UK-wide Infected Blood Compensation Authority (IBCA) to ensure progress has been made on delivering final compensation awards. As I made clear in my letter of 17 December, I want to see final compensation payments made as soon as possible. In the latest figures published by the IBCA in May it reported that 677 people have been asked to begin their compensation claims, 432 people have started the claims process, 160 offers of compensation have been made (totalling over £150m), and 106 people have so far accepted and received their final compensation (with £96.68m paid so far). The IBCA also announced, on 14 April, that it is prioritising those nearing the end of their lives and has, accordingly, written to more than 3,500 people who are infected as a result of the infected blood scandal and are registered with a support scheme in order to prioritise the payment of their compensation.

As before, I hope the Committee finds this update useful and I would like to reiterate that I remain fully committed to this work. The IBI held further hearings about the timeliness and adequacy of the response to compensation on 7-8 May. The Chair has also announced that he intends to publish an Additional Report on compensation, having considered the outcome of the hearings. I will provide you with a further update following the publication of that report, particularly if it raises any significant issues which the Committee should be made aware of.

Yours sincerely,



Jenni Minto MSP

Tha Ministearan na h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus an Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh www.lobbying.scot

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

Taigh Naomh Anndrais, Rathad Regent, Dùn Èideann EH1 3DG
St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
www.gov.scot

<https://www.nhsinform.scot>



INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE

Accredited
Until 2020

