

## OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

## INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY – COMPENSATION RECOMMENDATIONS

## Top Lines/Suggested Points to Cover

[Text redacted]

However, the Inquiry has recommended that there should be one UK-wide compensation scheme [and all the DAs have agreed that is sensible]. The UK Government has previously also committed to ensuring broad parity of financial support between the four nations' infected blood support schemes.

[Text redacted]

## Background

The Infected Blood Inquiry has been running since 2018 and is looking at how people became infected with HIV and hepatitis B and C as a result of receiving infected blood transfusions or blood products largely during the 1970s and 80s. It is expected to publish its final report this autumn (date to be confirmed, but will be October at the earliest).

The UKG has already publicly accepted that [Text redacted] there is a moral case that those infected and their affected close family members deserve compensation. The SG has also publicly accepted this and confirmed that in its closing submissions to the Inquiry.

In 2021 the then Paymaster General Penny Mordaunt commissioned Sir Robert Francis KC to produce a framework for compensation to allow UKG to be ready to set up a scheme quickly when the Inquiry reports. Sir Robert's report recommended a generous scheme. Following this, the Infected Blood Inquiry produced a first interim report in July 2022 which recommended interim compensation of at least £100,000 be paid to those infected and the widows, widowers or partners of infected people who had died. This was due to concerns that any final compensation could take years and infected people were dying in the meantime. The UK Government agreed to that recommendation and funded this compensation, which was paid out for 'Scottish' beneficiaries by the Scottish Infected Blood Support Scheme (SIBSS). SIBSS was established in 2017 and provides regular financial support to infected people with hepatitis C and/or HIV and their widows/ers/partners. However, its payments are viewed as support with living costs rather than 'compensation'.

In April 2023, the Inquiry published a second interim report on compensation. This recommended that UKG should set up an arms-length body now to deliver a substantial compensation scheme. The Inquiry also recommended further interim compensation should be paid immediately via the existing support schemes to other bereaved relatives who have had little or no financial support so far (parents, children and siblings). While the Inquiry recommended the new scheme should begin its work this year and made clear that there was no need to wait for its final report,

UKG has since made clear that it does not intend to set out its plans for compensation until it has seen the final report this autumn. However, it has emphasised that it is doing a lot of work internally to prepare for compensation, noting the complexity of what's proposed. **[Text redacted]**

Public Health Capabilities Division  
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