



Department
of Health &
Social Care

*From Andrew Gwynne MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
for Public Health and Prevention*

*39 Victoria Street
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9 December 2024

Dear Ian,

Thank you for your contribution during the recent debate on the Infected Blood Inquiry's findings in the House of Commons on 19 November. I noted the points you raised around screening for hepatitis B victims, and interferon treatment for hepatitis C victims, and would like to clarify the Government's position.

On the provision of evidence to support applications from those who were infected after the introduction of screening, the Infected Blood Compensation Authority (IBCA) will work with claimants to resolve these issues. When your constituent makes an application to the IBCA, they will be assigned a case manager, who will work with them to obtain as much evidence as possible to inform a decision. The Government recognises that the scheme must be collaborative and sympathetic, and as user-friendly, supportive and free of stress as possible, while being consistent with the Government's approach to protect against fraud.

Regarding interferon treatment for those infected with hepatitis C, the Scheme recognises the potential side effects suffered, including significant mental health issues. Further compensation may be available for associated care costs and financial loss experienced, depending on the applicant's circumstances. This higher compensation would be available through the health impact supplementary route, which will be defined in the next set of regulations due to be in force by 31 March 2025.

I am grateful for your regular contributions in the House on this issue, particularly those made on behalf of your constituent, Sean Cavens. While I can't comment on individual cases, the IBCA will be able to support potential claimants through the process of confirming if they are eligible and then making an application.

I hope this letter addresses your concerns and thank you once again for your engagement in the debate.

Yours sincerely,

ANDREW GWYNNE MP