



Our ref: NNDM8595

To All Senedd Members

2 July 2024

Dear colleagues

Thank you for following the Infected Blood Inquiry debate on 4 June. I am writing to provide you with details of the help and support available to those who are infected and/or affected and what you can do if you are concerned that you or someone you know may be infected. I trust the following information will be helpful to you and your constituents.

### **Wales Infected Blood Support Scheme**

The Welsh Government set up the [Wales Infected Blood Support Scheme](#) (WIBSS) in 2017. It provides ex-gratia payments to those who are infected and their bereaved partners. The payments are made at the same rate across the UK and are increased annually in line with inflation. WIBSS also provides welfare support, which includes assistance with benefit claims, hospital appointments and help to those seeking support from other agencies, such as home adaptations. It also provides bespoke psychological support to those infected and their families and friends via a self-referral process.

### **Infected Blood Compensation Authority**

The UK Victim and Prisoners Bill received Royal Assent as part of the “wash-up” process following the announcement of the General Election. This allows the new Infected Blood Compensation Authority (IBCA) to be set up – it will be the vehicle through which compensation will be assessed and paid to all those infected and their loved ones.

The IBCA will be chaired by Sir Robert Francis, who wrote the IBI Compensation Report. Sir Robert is currently undertaking engagement events with representatives of those infected to discuss their expectations and the role of the IBCA.

The UK Government’s expectation is that the IBCA would be operational and begin payments by the end of 2024. If you know someone who thinks they may be eligible for compensation, further information is available on the IBCA website at:

[www.gov.uk/government/organisations/infected-blood-compensation/authority](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/infected-blood-compensation/authority)

### **Interim payments**

Further interim compensation payments of £210,000 have been made (24 June) to beneficiaries registered with the UK support schemes who became infected with HIV and/or Hepatitis C following treatment with contaminated blood. This payment will be made on behalf of the UK Government by WIBSS, for those infected in Wales.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Interim payments to estates: The Victims and Prisoners Act places a statutory duty on the UK Government to pay £100,000 interim compensation payments to the estates of people who have passed away, where such payments have not already been made to a partner or spouse of the deceased person. Those eligible for the payment will receive further information about this in the coming months.

### **Future of the Infected Blood compensation schemes**

The UK Government recognises the importance of the existing infected blood financial support schemes and has said there will be no immediate changes to the schemes and that payments will continue to be made at the same level until 31 March 2025. However, from the 1 April 2025, support scheme payments received will be counted towards a beneficiary's final compensation award. This is to ensure all scheme beneficiaries are treated fairly, regardless of whether they were the first or the last to have their compensation assessed by the IBCA. Meanwhile, beneficiaries will continue to receive payments as usual. I will keep you updated in relation to any developments.

### **Seeking reassurance**

If you or someone you know is concerned about being infected following a blood transfusion before September 1991, you can access a free and confidential test for Hepatitis C and HIV from Public Health Wales [here](#). The risk of having acquired an infection is very low.

### **Next Steps**

The Welsh Government has set up an Infected Blood Inquiry: Next Steps for Wales Oversight Group, chaired by our new Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Health Services, Professor Pushpinder Singh Mangat. The group will work with health boards, the Welsh Blood Service, Public Health Wales and policy officials to ensure we look at the recommendations from the IBI Report and work together to ensure this can never happen again.

Working as four nations there are some issues we can, and will, progress quickly. Others will take more time.

I will update you again as we progress this work.

Yours sincerely,



### **Eluned Morgan AS/MS**

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol  
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care