



10 DOWNING STREET
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21 October 2015

THE PRIME MINISTER

Dear Diane,

Thank you for your letter of 28 September about financial support arrangements for people who received contaminated blood from the NHS.

The Government is currently considering various options for providing assistance to those who have been affected by this tragedy. The shape and structure of a new scheme will be decided following a public consultation later this year, after which the Department of Health will work as quickly as possible to analyse the results and announce how the scheme will be reformed. It is our hope that, pending decisions following the consultation, a transition to a new scheme can begin from April 2016.

Until then, support will continue to be funded from Department of Health budgets. As announced in the Written Ministerial Statement made in the House of Lords on 17 July and repeated in the House of Commons on 20 July and 9 August, decisions on the overall Department of Health budget from 2016-17 onwards, including financial support for contaminated blood, will be determined as part of the forthcoming Spending Review, rather than through any separate business cases. The Government has committed to spend at least an additional £8 billion by 2020 over and above inflation to support the NHS in this parliament.

Let me assure you that the transition to a reformed scheme remains a priority for this Government and that Ministers at the Department of Health are working with officials to prepare for this. I hope that you are able to address your ongoing concerns when you meet with Jane Ellison next month.

Thank you, once again, for your letter and for all the work that the All-Party Parliamentary Group that you co-chair does on this important issue. I am happy for this reply to be shared with them and the wider community of people affected by this matter.

Yours,
David

Ms Diana Johnson MP