



# Department of Health & Social Care

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Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP  
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23rd April 2025

Dear Chair,

## **Public Accounts Committee hearing on the DHSC Annual Report and Accounts 2023-24**

I am writing further to the following requests made at the Public Accounts Committee hearing on the DHSC Annual Report and Accounts 2023-24 which took place on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2025:

### **1. Infected Blood Support Schemes**

Information was requested on the communication activities that have taken place to raise awareness amongst those eligible that applications to the schemes were due to close.

### **2. Clinical negligence**

Information was requested on whether there are estimates for future liabilities in relation to issues covered in the Cumberlege Review.

## **Infected Blood Support Schemes**

New applications to Infected Blood Support Schemes (IBSS) closed on the 31 March 2025, and those wishing to apply for compensation from that date will need to apply to the Infected Blood Compensation Scheme (IBCS) via the Infected Blood Compensation Authority (IBCA) when the scheme is open to them. This is with the exception of newly bereaved partners, whose partner died between 1 January - 31 March 2025. In these instances, a bereaved partner will have 3 months from the date of death to make an application to an IBSS.

From November 2024 until the schemes closed on 31 March 2025, IBCA and the schemes have promoted the deadline, encouraging all those eligible that they are able to reach to apply to one of the four existing IBSS. IBCA worked with the IBSS to use

their combined channels to promote this message. Activity included a number of updates to the IBCA mailing list of more than 6,000 people, working with stakeholder and community groups to share the details of the deadline, a national press release and regular updates on social media and the IBSS and IBCA websites.

In December 2024 IBCA began compensation offers, as of 14 March 2025 IBCA had invited 255 people to start their compensation claim, and had made compensation offers to 63 people totalling more than £73 million. 40 people had been paid, totalling over £44 million in compensation payments, with more compensation offers and payments going out since those figures were published. The IBCS will recognise and provide financial compensation to victims of infected blood, both people who have been infected and those who are affected. Eligibility for the IBCS is not dependent on eligibility for an IBSS.

## **Clinical Negligence**

NHS Resolution has received clinical negligence claims related to pelvic mesh, sodium valproate and infected blood. The total value of clinical negligence claims settled by NHS Resolution as at 31.3.24, including damages, claimant legal costs and NHS defendant legal costs, was £14.6m for sodium valproate and £55.7m for pelvic mesh.

Estimates are made in relation to future liabilities for all clinical negligence claims at the end of each financial year. These include, for example, known and potential claims related to pelvic mesh, sodium valproate and infected blood. NHS Resolution does not disclose the reserve values for a specific group of open claims. Any estimate for compensation arrangements outside of the schemes managed by NHSR will not be held within its provision. In terms of high-level estimates pertaining to the Government's response to The Hughes Report, which builds from the Cumberlege Review and calls for redress to be paid to those harmed by sodium valproate and pelvic mesh, DHSC is currently considering full implications of both financial and non-financial redress options.

Yours Sincerely,



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