



CABINET OFFICE

Civil Service Chief Operating Officer & Cabinet Office Permanent Secretary

Catherine Little CB
Civil Service Chief Operating Officer
and Cabinet Office Permanent Secretary

2 September 2026

Follow-up: Infected Blood Compensation Authority Risk Management Review

Dear Sir Geoffrey and Simon,

In July 2025, I wrote to you to provide transparent engagement on how I am discharging my responsibilities as Principal Accounting Officer in relation to the Infected Blood Compensation Authority (IBCA). In that letter, I committed to holding a formal review of our approach to fraud risk and sharing the findings ahead of the publication of the Annual Report and Accounts.

Ahead of IBCA laying its accounts in Parliament, I can confirm that I have now completed this formal review. I am pleased to report that IBCA has disbursed £2.2 billion to date to eligible victims and affected individuals.

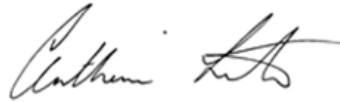
To deliver at this scale and pace, and as the scheme begins processing claims for higher-risk cohorts of applicants not previously known to existing support schemes, IBCA's risk appetite has pragmatically matured to a 'cautious' posture. This allows IBCA to process claims rapidly while managing complex fraud risks; such as synthetic identities and documentary forgery, proportionately and effectively.

To fulfil the specific counter-fraud mitigations outlined in my letter, IBCA has transitioned from reliance on external assessment to a dedicated in-house model. An Enhanced Review Team (ERT) of counter-fraud specialists is now physically embedded within operational and digital design functions, ensuring that fraud prevention and lessons learned directly inform claims processing. Furthermore, IBCA continues to provide comprehensive updates every six months to the Public Sector Fraud Authority (PSFA) under the High Fraud Risk Portfolio. IBCA has also undergone an independent Government Internal Audit Agency (GIAA) review against the GovS 013 Counter Fraud Functional Standard and is implementing a clear roadmap to achieve full maturity across all twelve control themes.

I remain confident that this approach strikes the correct balance between our moral imperative to compensate victims swiftly and my ongoing obligations as Principal Accounting Officer to protect

public funds. While I am satisfied with the significant progress made to date, managing fraud risk remains an active, ongoing priority. I will continue to keep a close watch on IBCA's control environment in direct consultation with IBCA's Chief Executive, David Foley, as the scheme continues to scale.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Catherine Little', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Catherine Little CB

Civil Service Chief Operating Officer & Cabinet Office Permanent Secretary

Email PSCatherineLittle@cabinetoffice.gov.uk