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24th July 2023

Dear Prime Minister,

## **Re: Infected Blood Compensation**

We write to you as the victims and bereaved families of the Infected Blood Scandal. While we appreciate the government's acceptance of compensation, action is needed now.

When running for PM, in July 2022, you told the media that: "The contaminated blood scandal is a tragic injustice and we must now match words with action, just as we did with those affected by the Thalidomide scandal. Survivors and their families need to have certainty now..."

We call upon you to stand by these words and implement the Infected Blood Inquiry's final compensation recommendations published in April of this year and to do so before the final report.

We place particular emphasis on recommendation 12: the need to make interim payments for deaths not yet recognised and on recommendation 14: the need to establish the ALB and for the chair to be appointed now.

Our journey has been marked by immeasurable pain and loss. Sir Brian Langstaff has done commendable work in putting forth recommendations that offer a fair resolution. However, these recommendations still need to be fulfilled, our pleas echoing in what seems to be an empty hall.

The appointment of the ALB's chair remains to be made. This delay denies victims and their families any tangible sense of progress. Many continue to die without seeing full redress; this cannot be right. The interim payment for deaths not yet recognised is critical. These payments are not just about compensation; they symbolise acknowledgement, and they represent initial recognition of each life lost. We know, for example, that many of the 380 children infected with HIV died in childhood, and their deaths remain unrecognised.

As Prime Minister, you hold the power to alleviate this prolonged suffering. It is within your authority to appoint the Chair of the ALB and expedite the process of justice. We implore you to use this power not just as a political leader but as a compassionate human being who understands our immeasurable grief. It has been over three months since the Inquiry's recommendations were released. Every day without action adds to the anguish of the victims and their families. Thus, we respectfully request your immediate attention to this matter, for our pleas can no longer afford to be unheard.

This letter comes with the hopes of thousands who have suffered. Let their pain not go unanswered any longer. We, the victims of the Infected Blood Scandal, urge you to urgently accept and implement the final compensation recommendations of the Infected Blood Inquiry.

We thank you again for your words last year; we ask that you match them with action.