

Contaminated Blood

Sarah Wollaston Chair, Health and Social Care Committee, Chair, Liaison Committee (Commons)

The victims of the contaminated blood scandal have waited decades for answers. Will my right hon. Friend update the House on progress on the inquiry? Is there any room to revisit the decision to deny victims and their families legal aid in order to prepare adequately for the inquiry?

David Lidington Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Minister of State (Cabinet Office)

The inquiry launched a consultation on its terms of reference on 2 March. Details are on its website. The deadline for responses is 26 April. Sir Brian Langstaff wants to hear from as many of those who were affected as possible. As with any such inquiry, it is for the inquiry to decide the level of financial support, including for legal representation for the inquiry proceedings. I am very happy to talk to my hon. Friend and other interested colleagues, or for the Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office, my hon. Friend Chloe Smith, to do so, about how the terms of reference are being handled. Sir Brian wants this process to be as user-friendly as possible.