



Rt Hon. Nick Thomas-Symonds MP
Minister for the Cabinet Office
His Majesty's Paymaster General
Cabinet Office 70 Whitehall London
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Professor Sir Jonathan Montgomery
By email only

15th December 2025

Dear Sir Jonathan,

Thank you for your letter of 1 December setting out the Infected Blood Compensation Scheme Technical Expert Group's approach to targeted engagement with the infected blood community. This targeted, focused approach is a critical mechanism to gather essential insights from the community and will ensure the Group's advice to government is as informed and robust as possible.

I welcome the Group's commitment to the principles of transparency I outlined in my letter to you of 15 September 2025. I am pleased to see these principles being implemented for the roundtables, in particular through publication of materials including background papers and the record of each meeting. I understand the first roundtables are being held this week on the Special Category Mechanism, and that the list of attendees has been published today to further ensure transparency of the workings of the Group.

I would be grateful for confirmation of the full schedule of future roundtables following the closure of the public consultation on 22 January 2026. I welcome the Group's current intention to dedicate further sessions to several key Inquiry recommendations including recognition of severe psychological harm, recognition of interferon treatment, and the supplementary route for affected people. I understand you also intend to use the results of the consultation to help inform your final decisions on future roundtable topics.

I look forward to seeing the outcomes of the roundtables reflected in the group's final advice to the Government. Thank you once again for your leadership and dedication to conducting this crucial engagement process in a transparent and open manner.

Yours sincerely,

**RT HON NICK THOMAS-SYMONDS MP
MINISTER FOR THE CABINET OFFICE
HIS MAJESTY'S PAYMASTER GENERAL**