

2019 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ATTACHMENTS

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2018	Jun	FOI/19/087	Correspondence on a Democratic Unionist Party Association Business Breakfast	15
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9-11 CHURCH STREET
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HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

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Email: info@ianpaisleymp.co.uk

Website: www.ianpaisleymp.co.uk

Ian Paisley MP BA (HONS) MSSc.

Ref: IPJ/36499/17

27 March 2018

Rt Hon Karen Bradley MP
Secretary of State
Northern Ireland Office
1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

Dear Secretary of State

I met with Councillor [redacted] and a number of representatives from the National Association of Councillors. I would encourage you to meet with the same grouping – The Executive Committee and to hear from them first-hand the needs in regards to local government. I know you are working hard to try and re-establish devolution which is in all of our interests but in the mean time local authorities continue to bear a considerable burden for local government decisions and who knows in the future may obtain more powers if the Assembly continue to fail to meet!

With that being the case I enclose for your attention some notes that were made at the meeting so as you can see the case they are making with regards to the assistance local authority members ought to be in receipt of.

I trust you would consider the points they have raised and advise me how you intend to respond to them and I will be more than happy to continue to liaise with the Councillors and let them know of any support that can be given to them that is practical and will be delivered to them.

I look forward to hear from you.

Yours sincerely

Mr Ian Paisley MP

Enc

Please quote reference number on all correspondence

Notes for meeting with DUP re councillor equality 22 March 2018

DUP attendees: Ian Paisley MP

NAC attendees:

Venue: Constituency Office, 9-11 Church St, Ballymena BT43 6DD at 4.00 pm
Pre-meeting: Ballymena Town Hall, Bridge St, Ballymena BT43 5EJ at 3.15 pm

Objective

To bring councillors' allowances and benefits closer to those received by other public representatives such as MLAs and MPs

Present situation

Councillors	MLAs
Basic allowance - £14,485	Basic salary - £50,000 from April 1 2018
Severance pay - One-off payment in 2014 to departing councillors. No ongoing severance scheme.	Resettlement allowance - Up to £48,000 Winding-up allowance - Up to £22,387
Pension - Small entitlement, as scheme only started in May 2011 and is linked to the councillor's basic allowance.	Pension - Scheme started in November 2000, and is based on MLAs' higher salary.
Office facilities - Councillors are expected to work from home, with limited allowances for office facilities.	Office facilities - MLAs get offices for themselves and their staff, with full office facilities.

Some proposals

- Councillors' basic allowance is raised by 50% to £21,727 (still less than half of an MLA's salary)
- An ongoing severance scheme for all departing councillors
- Pension enhancements for councillors with over 20 years' service

Additional notes

- "Equality" also means "comparability".
- Councillor's role needs to be professionalised.
- Better remuneration would encourage more young people to be councillors.



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Ian Paisley MP
9-11 Church Street
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County Antrim
BT43 6DD

21 May 2018

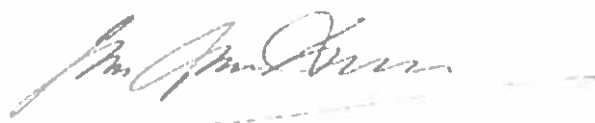
Dear Ian,

Local government allowances and benefits

Thank you for your letter of 27 March 2018 to the Secretary of State, regarding your meeting with the National Association of Councillors. I am responding on her behalf; I apologise for the delay in responding to your letter.

As you will know, local government is a transferred matter under the Northern Ireland Act 1998, meaning that the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland has no power to intervene in relation to councillors' allowances and benefits.

The Government's priority - as you note in your letter - is the restoration of devolved government and we will do all in our power to achieve this. In the absence of a Northern Ireland Executive, we have had to take several steps to ensure the continuing delivery of public services, but those steps have been taken only when absolutely required in order to safeguard public finances or services. It would therefore not be for the UK Government to take any action relating to councillors' allowances and benefits, which should rightly be for a restored Executive to consider.

Yours sincerely


LORD DUNCAN OF SPRINGBANK

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND



Please quote Our Reference on all correspondence

7th July 2017

Rt Hon James Brokenshire
Secretary of State
Northern Ireland Office
Stormont House
Belfast
Northern Ireland
BT4 3SH

Dear *James*

Re: Contaminated Blood

As you are aware, the Government recently announced that there would be a UK wide Public Inquiry into the NHS contaminated blood scandal. This is welcoming news for victims of contaminated blood and their families.

I am writing to ascertain when this Inquiry is likely to take place; how the victims will be consulted; the terms of reference of the Inquiry; who will Chair it; and how it will be formatted in order that justice is served for the victims of this national tragedy.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours Sincerely

Margaret

Margaret Ritchie





Northern Ireland Affairs Committee

Committee Office, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA
Tel 020 7219 2173 Email northircom@parliament.uk Website www.parliament.uk

From the Chair of the Committee

Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland
Northern Ireland Office
1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

22 February 2017

Dear James.

You will be aware that the issue of the transparency of political donations has again featured in the Northern Ireland press in recent days. As you know, this is an issue in which my Committee has a long-standing interest, and on which we made recommendations to the Government in our 2013 Report on the Draft Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill.

When I was last in correspondence with your predecessor on this matter in summer 2015, she told us NIO officials were working actively with the Electoral Commission to bring forward secondary legislation under the Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014. The intention was that the Order would ensure that only the identities of donors were protected, with all other details being published.

As we complete another electoral cycle in Northern Ireland, the issue of political donations has again come to the fore. I understand that earlier in January you wrote to the political parties in Northern Ireland seeking their views on increasing transparency. I am therefore writing to ask what the outcome was of that consultation, and when you plan to use your powers under the 2014 Act?

Many thanks.

Yours ever

Laurence

Laurence Robertson MP
Chair of the Committee



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Stephen Reid, Chief Executive
Ards and North Down Borough Council
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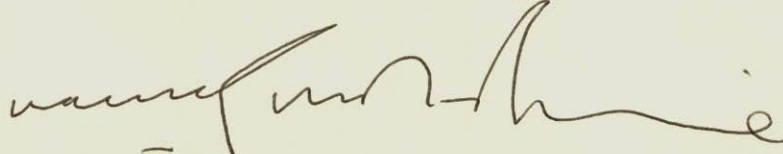
28 February 2017

Dear Mr Reid,

DONATIONS & LOANS TO NORTHERN IRELAND POLITICAL PARTIES

Thank you for your letter dated 24 January bringing to my attention the motion passed by the Council on 19 December in relation to the Council's view on donations and loans to political parties in Northern Ireland.

I have written to the political parties indicating that I would like to see progress on this issue and seeking their views on moving to full transparency. I am currently considering the responses from the parties before deciding on next steps. An announcement on a way forward will not take place until after the election, in line with the usual pre-election protocols.

Yours sincerely,


RT HON JAMES BROKENSHERE MP
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

15 June 2017

Rt. Hon. James Brokenshire, M.P.
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland

Dear Mr Brokenshire

I am writing to you in relation to your review of the current regulations on donations and loans to Northern Ireland political parties.

I hope that your consultation exercise in early 2017 with the main political parties in Northern Ireland is now complete and that you are now in a position to come to a decision on progress on this issue.

I wish to register my support that the rules and regulations governing the arrangements for donations by businesses, special interest organisations and individuals should be the same as those that pertain in the rest of the United Kingdom. The full register of donations and loans to Northern Ireland political parties should be made available to public inspection.

I look forward to your reply in due course.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

ADM18
SR/SA

24 January 2017

Mr James Brokenshire MP
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland
Northern Ireland Office
Stormont House
Stormont Estate
Belfast
BT4 3SH

Dear Mr Brokenshire

At the meeting of Ards and North Down Borough Council held on 19 December 2016 the following Notice of Motion was agreed:

“That this Council notes that current arrangements in Northern Ireland do not permit publication of information concerning who has made donations or loans to political parties above current UK wide thresholds, this would include banning Northern Ireland parties from accepting donations from outside the UK and agrees to write to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland requesting an end to the anonymity provided.”

I would be grateful if you would give this matter your consideration and I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely



STEPHEN REID
Chief Executive



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Owen Paterson MP
House of Commons
SW1A 0AA

4 February 2019

Dear Owen,

On 21 January I made a statement to the House of Commons on the security situation in Northern Ireland following the recent terrorist attack in Londonderry. In our exchanges following that statement, you asked about the £16.48m funding announced for the PSNI just before Christmas. I said I would write to you about the funding and let you know how long it will take to recruit the additional police officers.

The funding announced on 19 December is to help the PSNI manage pressures and contingencies arising from EU exit preparations, reflecting the specific and unique concerns in Northern Ireland. You asked whether the money had yet been released to the PSNI. The funding falls in the 2019/20 financial year. At the time of the announcement, the Chief Constable said that this additional funding will allow the PSNI to recruit a total of 308 additional officers and staff by April 2020 and make some investment in the PSNI estate, IT and infrastructure.

I understand that by the end of this financial year, the PSNI will have recruited and trained 102 of these 308 officers and staff, with the remaining 206 scheduled to be recruited and trained by April 2020.

I hope this addresses the questions you raised.

KAREN BRADLEY MP
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

Annex A

Meeting	Attendees
Minister Penrose meeting with Moy Park	Minister Penrose X X X X X X
Minister Penrose meeting with NI Chamber of Commerce	Minister Penrose X X X X
Minister Penrose meeting with Claire Sudgen MLA	Minister Penrose Claire Sudgen MLA X
Minister Penrose internal meeting with NIO officials	Minister Penrose X X X X X X



Annex B

(1) Briefing provided to Minister Penrose below:

Moy Park

Time: 11:15 - 12:15

Lead Official:

Lead Comms:

Lead Deputy Director:

Venue:

Logistical points:

Attendees:

Objectives of the engagement:

This is an opportunity to engage with NI's largest private sector company, to understand any issues or opportunities that they are currently experiencing, or which they envisage as the UK prepares to leave the EU.

Relevant Background:

Moy Park is one of the UK top 15 companies, Northern Ireland's largest private sector company, providing branded and own brand chicken products across the UK, Ireland and Europe.

They directly employ circa 6,000 people in food processing in NI, working with approximately 700 small family farming businesses, who supply broilers and fertile hatching eggs.

RHI:

In April Justin Coleman, Agri Business and Live Production Services Director at Moy Park gave evidence at the NIAC review of the revised RHI tariffs.



Lines to take:

- Delighted to have the opportunity to visit today and hear more about your operations
- Interested to hear your views about what more the UK Government can do to support your company's growth and success going forward.
- Interested to hear your views about future opportunities, including international trade

RHI:

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland introduced the legislation to revise RHI tariffs, as there would have been no lawful basis for the payments to 1,800 installations after 31 March 2019.

Agriculture is one of Northern Ireland's most important industries and we want to support business leaders where practicable. We appreciate that the change of tariffs may have created difficulty for some farmers and businesses.

The Northern Ireland Affairs Committee will be concluding its review shortly and the Secretary of State will consider carefully its findings, particularly in relation to hardship.

The Department of Economy will be setting up an independently chaired panel to look at cases where there may have been hardship.

The Department of Economy will take account of the findings of the NIAC review before finalising and publishing the voluntary buy-out scheme.

The RHI Scheme in operation in GB has some important differences to RHI in Northern Ireland, however, both schemes are based on a target rate of return of 12%. The ROI scheme is based on estimates whereas the NI tariffs are based on actual capital costs and analysis carried out by an independent review.

Pen pictures:



Comms & Media plan: from our Comms team and a professional photographer will capture imagery for NIO social media

(2) Read-out Minister Penrose /Moy Park

Background

- Moy Park is one of Europe's leading poultry companies. In 2018, they celebrated 75 years.



Annex A:

From:
Date: Fri, 12 Aug 2016 at 12:27
Subject: FW: Breakfast
To:

Thank you for your email to

Your invitation has been forwarded to Private Office and we will be in touch in due course when a date becomes available in the Secretary of State's Diary.

Private Office Coordinator
Secretary of State and Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Northern Ireland
Stormont House, Belfast, BT4 3SH
Tel: | Mobile: | www.gov.uk/nio | Follow us on Twitter@niopressoffice

 **Please** consider the environment - do you really need to print this email?

From:
Sent: 01 August 2016 22:55
To:
Subject: Fwd: Breakfast

Subject: Breakfast

Lagan Valley DUP is organising a Business Breakfast at Cafe Vic Ryn Moira Road Lisburn. The Association has requested that I contact the SoS to see if he would be the Guest Speaker. It would start at 8.00 am but the date would be a date that suits him.

Let me know if this is in order.

Regards

Sent from my iPad



Secretary of State NI Engagement

29 November 2018

Itinerary for 29 November 2018

Time	Engagement	Location	Attendee/Lead Official
	Travel to Lisburn		
12:30 - 13:15	Visit to Resurgam Trust	Lisburn	

Briefing pack running order

2. Briefing for **Visit to Resurgam Trust.**

2. Resurgam Trust Visit.

Time: 12:15-13:00

Lead Official:

Lead Comms:

Lead Deputy Director:

PS:

Venue: Office Suite 3, Laganview Enterprise Centre, 69 Drumbeg Drive, Old Warren, Lisburn BT28 1QJ

Attendees:

Logistical points

You will be met on arrival by Adrian Bird, Director at Resurgam. You will then sit down for a 20 minute conversation with Adrian and his team (listed above) focusing on the Draft EU/UK Withdrawal Agreement and the importance of the Agreement for NI.

Following the discussion, you will have the opportunity to drop-in at one of the many activities which take place in the centre and talk to some of the service users present. You will walk over to the Resurgam 3d Centre, (200m from Laganview) where there will be two groups present. The Resurgam Women's Network will be participating in an art class and there will be a group of school children from Forthill College participating on our Empowering Youth Project.

Relevant Background

The Resurgam Community Development Trust is supported by established and recognised community-based organisations and social enterprise organisations with many years of experience working in communities throughout the city of Lisburn. They are an umbrella group for thirty community-based groups and six social enterprises, supported by 500 volunteers throughout its structures, from management committees to volunteer positions.

Resurgam was awarded The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service (QAVS) 2018

ADDITIONAL EMAILS

E-Mail 1 - Wed, 28 November, NIO - Resurgam Trust

RE: Visit to the Resurgam Trust

It was good chatting to you earlier. I would like to confirm that we would be delighted to welcome the Secretary of State to Laganview Entre Centre tomorrow at 11.45am.

I have arranged for the following people to meet with the SOS.

All present will have a good insight and feel for what is going on within our community.

Following our meeting I would like the SOS to visit the Resurgam 3d Centre, (200m from Laganview) as there will be two groups present. The Resurgam Women's Network will be participating in an art class and there will be a group of school children from Forthill College participating on our Empowering Youth Project.

I hope this helps,

Kind Regards,

E-Mail 2 - Wed, 28 November, NIO - Resurgam Trust

Hi

That's perfect, thank you so much. Maybe the first half hour quickly introducing SOSNI to Resurgam's work and the area you work in, and then a discussion around the political situation and the Brexit deal - and the second half hour chatting to the groups in the 3D centre?

I'll be there in advance of SOSNI at about 11.15, so looking forward to catching up with you then.

Thank you again.

E-Mail 3 - Thurs, 29 November, NIO - Resurgam Trust

Good morning

Looking forward to seeing you later. We'll have a photographer with us, I hope that's ok? I'm just wondering whether we'll be ok to have the school children in the 3D project in photos?

E-Mail 4 - Thurs, 29 November, Resurgam Trust - NIO

We are looking forward to the meeting and are happy with the photographer being present.
(Hopefully you can share some photos with us).

I have checked, and we have consent from the young people so that is also okay.

See you later,

E-Mail 5 - Thurs, 29 November, NIO - Resurgam Trust

That's great, thank you.

I've just heard SOSNI's plane is delayed. I'm trying to get a definite arrival time - they've been sitting on the tarmac for 40 mins ready to go apparently.

I'm really sorry about this, I'll give you a ring asap.

E-Mail 6 Fri, 30 November, Resurgam Trust - NIO

Thank you very much for arranging for the Secretary of State to visit the Resurgam Trust and meet with members of our community.

The Secretary of State did make the offer of coming back at some point in the future and I would like to confirm that we would welcome the opportunity to continue this engagement.

I hope that the meeting has proved useful and give the Secretary of State a feeling of the frustration felt on the ground.

E-Mail 7 Thurs, 29 November, Resurgam Trust - NIO

Good morning

Thank you for your message and for hosting SOSNI at such short notice last week. The visit was a really valuable one, both in her conversations with you and the team, and with the women and young people's groups. Do please thank them again on our behalf.

I will pass on to SOSNI's Private Office your offer of further engagement, which I know she indicated to you she was keen to have.

Many thanks again.



Cabinet Office

Rt Hon David Lidington CBE MP
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
Minister for the Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2AS

Web www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk

Our Ref: CDL/2951

Karen Bradley
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland
1 Horse Guards Road
London SW1A 2HQ

2 May 2019

Dear Karen,

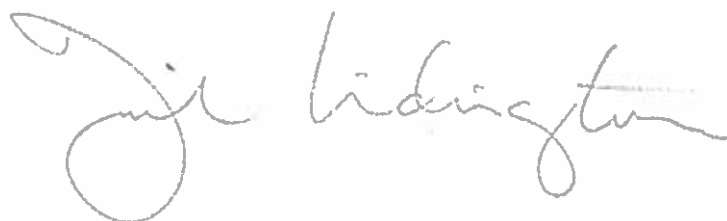
I wrote to you on 15 June 2018 seeking her views on the proposed terms of reference for the Infected Blood Inquiry. Since the terms of reference were announced on 2 July 2018, the Inquiry has made very good progress with its work. The Chair has appointed expert groups to provide open and transparent advice to the Inquiry across a range of fields. It has appointed 1716 core participants to the Inquiry, including 1697 people who are infected or affected.

Since the beginning of the year, the Inquiry has held a series of regional meetings for people infected and affected throughout the UK in the run-up to the start of public evidence hearings, which will begin on 30 April. Hearings will take place across the UK, including in Belfast at the International Conference Centre on 21 – 24 May. The initial phase of hearings, running until October, will focus on evidence from people infected and affected.

Under section 21 of the Inquiries Act 2005, the Chair of the Inquiry has the power to require the production of evidence etc. In order to exercise this power in respect of evidence, documents or other things that are wholly or primarily concerned with a Scottish, Welsh or Northern Irish matter and / or so as to require any evidence, document or other thing to be given, produced or provided by or on behalf of the Scottish, Welsh or Northern Irish Ministers, section 27 (3) of the Act requires me, as the responsible Minister, to grant permission to the Chair. Before doing so, I must first, under section 27 (4) of the Act, consult the relevant administrations.

The Solicitor to the Inquiry has written to the Cabinet Office on behalf of the Chair, seeking permission for the Chair to exercise the powers conferred by section 21 of the Inquiries Act 2005. I am therefore writing, in the absence of a Northern Ireland Executive, to seek your views on my giving the Chair written permission to do so.

The Chair of the Inquiry, Sir Brian Langstaff has stressed the Inquiry's need for speed; lives continue to be lost because of the infected blood tragedy, and Sir Brian is committed to completing his work as quickly as thoroughness will permit. Given the need for urgency, I would therefore be grateful if I could have your views by Friday 17 May.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "David Lidington". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping underline.

Rt Hon David Lidington CBE MP

**From the Permanent Secretary
and HSC Chief Executive**



Department of
Health

An Roinn Sláinte

Mánnystrie O Poustie

www.health-ni.gov.uk

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Tel: 02890520559

Fax: 02890520573

Email: richard.pengelly@health-ni.gov.uk

Our ref: RP4016
SCORR-0428-2019

Date: 22 May 2019

Dear

Infected Blood Inquiry

Thank you for your letter of 7th May 2019 regarding correspondence from David Lidington CBE MP to Karen Bradley, Secretary of State, in relation to the requirement under section 27 (3) Inquiries Act 2005 for him to consult the Northern Ireland Minister before granting the Chair of the inquiry permission to exercise powers under section 21 of the Inquiries Act 2005. I have no comment to make in relation to the exercise of this power in relation to NI.

On 24th August 2018 I wrote to the Chief Executives of those Health and Social Care organisations in Northern Ireland that could potentially be involved in the Inquiry. I asked them to co-operate and take all necessary steps to preserve and catalogue any material that might be required by the Inquiry, so that it could be provided promptly on request.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

RICHARD PENGELLY



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Rt Hon David Lidington CBE MP
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
Minister for the Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
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SW1A 2AS

23 May 2019

Dear

David

Infected Blood Inquiry

Thank you for your letter of 2 May 2019 in relation to the Infected Blood Inquiry. I note that the Chair of the Inquiry has sought your permission to exercise the power under section 21 of the Inquiries Act 2005 to require the production of evidence etc. I understand that before granting permission in respect of devolved NI matters, you have a duty to consult the relevant NI Minister or Ministers under section 27(4) of the Inquiries Act, and that in the absence of NI Ministers you have sought my view on this matter.

I am content for you to grant permission to exercise the power in question. My officials have engaged with the Department of Health on this matter, and I attach herein a letter from Richard Pengelly, Permanent secretary, setting out that he has no comment to make in relation to the exercise of this power in relation to Northern Ireland.

It is clear that consultation was integral to the statutory scheme, and with that in mind, and given the current absence of an NI Minister, I would recommend that you also contact Richard Pengelly directly. This will ensure that the maximum consultation has taken place in the circumstances.

Karen

RT HON KAREN BRADLEY MP
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 24 May 2019 19:34
To: BRADLEY, Karen <karen.bradley.mp@parliament.uk>
Subject: Infected blood

Dear Mrs Bradley

As a victim of the contaminated blood scandal I find it completely unbelievable that you have stated that people in N Ireland need the assembly to act to bring us into line financially with the rest of the UK. You have abdicated responsibility for bringing this country into line with the rest of the UK in relation to financial help.

This problem was as a direct result government policy at the time. Now you state that this is the responsibility of the N I Assembly. What complete nonsense. We in N Ireland deserve to parity with the rest of the UK.

You as minister could make the decision to increase the help victims here need without the assembly. I'm sure if there was a working assembly there would be some other excuse for not implementing this.

Yours faithfully



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22 May 2019

Thank you for your email of 14 May concerning the Infected Blood Inquiry.

I empathise with all victims at the heart of this scandal. It is a tragedy that should never have taken place, and I can only imagine the pain it has caused families throughout the UK.

I am aware of the issues you raise regarding the potential disparity in financial support between victims in Northern Ireland and those in England. As you know, the Infected Blood Inquiry is UK-wide and the Inquiry terms of reference include consideration of financial assistance across all the nations of the UK. The announcement made on 30th April increasing funding for recipients in England is to be welcomed, as are the efforts made by the Department of Health and Social Care to reach out to the devolved administrations with a view to working together to support recipients in all four nations. Indeed, my colleague and health minister Jacqui Doyle-Price has explicitly stated that she would like to see greater parity of support.

Please be assured that I am keeping a close eye on developments in the Inquiry. It is only right that those whose lives have been blighted should receive the care and assistance they need. Of course, the best means of supporting victims in Northern Ireland is via a functioning Assembly in which locally elected ministers can speak up and act on their behalf. That is why securing a successful outcome to the talks process is my absolute priority.

Yas ew

RT HON KAREN BRADLEY MP
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

Our Ref:
Your Ref:

30 May 2019
First Class

Please reply to:

Rt Hon K Bradley MP
1 Horse Guards Road
Westminster
London
SW1A 2HQ

Dear Minister

Re: Financial Support for victims of Infected Blood Scandal

We act for Haemophilia Northern Ireland, an organisation which supports both Haemophiliacs and Non-Haemophiliac victims of the Infected Blood Scandal which is the subject of an ongoing Public Inquiry.

We have had sight of your correspondence with [redacted] in which he raised the issue of the disparity in financial support between victims in Northern Ireland and those in England and Scotland.

Sir Brian Langstaff, Chair of the Infected Blood Inquiry, has expressed "considerable concerns" as to the position in respect of financial support for the infected and affected community touched by the Infected Blood Scandal. Also, on the 30th April last the Westminster Government announced increases in the level of financial support to some victims in England.

Our client and their members have two principle concerns;

1. The lack of parity in Northern Ireland compared now to both England and to Scotland. It appears that victims in Northern Ireland are at a significant disadvantage in respect of financial support compared to those of the other parts of the United Kingdom
2. The apparent failure of the Northern Ireland Government to address and or respond to the concerns raised by Sir Brian Langstaff.

Continue⁴
Doc Ref:
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Please outline, with reasons, if the Northern Ireland Government intends to address the above issues. If so, how, and what is the time line?

We look forward to receiving a considered but swift response.

Yours faithfully



Elisha McCallion MP

Tel: 07701397798 Office: 02871 161 606
Email: elishamccallionmp@sinnfein.ie
Twitter: @ElishaMcC_SF
Facebook: Elisha McCallion

31st May 2019

Theresa May MP
Prime Minister
10, Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

Dear Mrs May,

It is now almost two years since you ordered a Public Inquiry into the scandal of NHS blood and blood products. You will no doubt have been informed of the progress of the inquiry, under the Chairmanship of Sir Brian Langstaff, and of the distressing and harrowing victim testimonies that have been heard to date.

I understand that in the closing weeks in office, you have pledged to fulfil your earlier promise to 'tackle' this injustice.

I believe that the contaminated blood scandal has to count alongside the greatest medical injustices of all time, with over 100 more deaths since your announcement.

I therefore urge you to complete the task you started by ordering that compensation be awarded to all victims, whether dead or alive, along with their families, and that all victims are awarded parity of payments, and able to be financially stable in the interim.

It is my belief that you should take this action, dealing with the contaminated blood scandal, and for those that have suffered as a result of this scandal, this could be an important legacy of your time in office.

Is mise le meas,

Elisha McCallion MP

Sinn Féin

**AN FÓD A SHEASAMH AR SON
COMHIONANNAIS, CEARTA,
ATHAONTÚ NA hÉIREANN**

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Tue, 28 May 2019 at 13:04
Subject: RE: Response from the NIO
To: SOS Bradley <sos.bradley@nio.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]

Good Morning,

Having taken some time to reflect on this reply I now feel the need to respond, given the public and media outrage regarding.

On a point per point basis you state in paragraph one that you empathise with all victims at the heart of this scandal. I feel that this is not the case as within your power of Secretary of State the victims you empathise with should be given more attention than to simply pass the buck onto an Assembly which you are more than aware are not sitting.

In paragraph two you mention the disparity in financial support, I also agree that the increased funding for England is to be welcomed; however, as this catastrophe took place under direct rule from Westminster I feel that the PM was mistaken to solely fund the English infected and affected and believe it was within her power to do so across the UK. Unfortunately this was not the case so I turned to my Secretary of State to provide equality to citizens living under her remit.

I am glad to hear that you are keeping a close eye on the developments in the enquiry and as such, I'm sure you may have noted what the BBC political correspondent said in his analysis, this was that you provided no clarity that the decision needed a sitting minister to sign off; simply that the best means was through a functioning assembly. My personal feeling on this, is that as a scheme is already in place on this matter through the BSO that ministerial sign off is not required and that anyone with relevant authority over this scheme could sign off.

Within my response to the enquiry I accused you of playing political football with us, the infected and the affected innocent victims of the largest scandal the NHS has ever had to deal with and still stand by this.

The figure to provide the same financial uplift to make Northern Ireland equal to England is approximately £650000 which should in my belief be easy to find for a government or department and would provide some security and equality to the innocent victims mentioned throughout this correspondence. These are some of the bravest people who I can say I ever have had the honour of meeting, and to be used as political fodder after having waited 40 years in some cases to get as far as an enquiry, respectfully is a disgrace.

Can I ask that you revisit this with some consideration to the above and the hurt that people have been feeling generated by your response and speak to departments again to right this gross inequality.

I am aware that there is possible arising instability within Westminster after the PM has declared her resignation date, so I would be happy to meet at any time to discuss, if not directly, with civil servants whom I believe could sign off on this uplift ahead of any potential cabinet changes.

Many thanks.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Yellowhammer doc leaked

[REDACTED]

18 Aug
2019,
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HOLIDAYS

Cabinet ministers including *Dominic Raab* and *Andrea Leadsom* have sparked fury by taking "discreet" holidays after their advisers were told to cancel all leave to prepare for a no-deal Brexit. Dominic Cummings, Boris Johnson's most senior aide, has instructed special advisers to delay any leave until after October 31, Britain's expected departure date from the EU. Civil servants have also been told to make no-deal planning their priority. However, several of Johnson's closest allies are on holiday or have recently returned from summer breaks. They include Raab, Leadsom and Ben Wallace all of whom represent departments with a key role in Brexit planning (S Times p6).

[Redacted]

Media and Campaigns Manager

Stormont House, Stormont Estate

Stormont House, Stormont Estate, Belfast, BT4 3SH

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Weekly Political Round Up: 10/8/19 - 16/8/19

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Weekly Political Round Up: 10/8/19 -16/8/19

EU Exit

1. The Speaker of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi has said that there is no chance that a trade agreement between the United States and Britain will pass Congress if the UK's exit from the EU undermines the Good Friday/ Belfast Agreement. She explained that 'whatever form it takes, Brexit cannot be allowed to imperil the Good Friday Agreement, including the seamless border between the Irish Republic and Northern Ireland'. Her comments follow those made by Donald Trump's national security adviser, John Bolton, who said on a visit to London recently that the UK and the US could sign sector-by-sector free trade deals before a comprehensive agreement as a way of helping the UK cope with the consequences of leaving the EU on 31 October in a no-deal Brexit. Bolton said the micro-deals, focusing on industries such as car manufacturing, could be negotiated quickly, and insisted they would receive overwhelming bipartisan support in Congress. Both Republicans and Democrats in Congress have previously warned that any future US-UK

trade deal would almost certainly be blocked if exit affected the Irish border and jeopardised peace in Northern Ireland.

2. Former Northern Ireland Secretary of State Shaun Woodward has warned that Boris Johnson could fuel a resurgence of violence if he continues to pursue a no-deal EU exit. Shaun Woodward, who served as Secretary of State under Prime Minister Gordon Brown from 2007 until 2010, said he feared a no-deal exit leading to a hard border between Northern Ireland and the Republic will give 'the bad people' a political cause to resurrect a campaign of terrorism. Speaking on *LBC Radio* on Monday, Mr Woodward said the risk of seeing a resurgence of violence is 'enormous' should the Prime Minister continue on his course towards a no-deal scenario. He explained that 'we need to respect just how dangerous a place we are in, and I take it back to Northern Ireland. I fear that we're going to give the bad people who have been restraining themselves from violence all they've been looking for since the Good Friday Agreement - a so-called political cause. If Boris Johnson gives them a hard border between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, the risk to seeing a resurgence of violence in Northern Ireland is enormous and it is irresponsible not to think this through'. Mr Woodward, who was a Conservative MP before switching to the Labour Party in 1999, also said Mr Johnson was afraid of calling a general election. He said that 'if Mr Johnson and Dominic Cummings are so certain of their position, why not have the general election and presume you will have your majority to pursue this reckless policy? The reason they are frightened of it is it probably isn't going to give them a majority'.

Monitoring: No Deal Brexit - 14/07/19

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Philip Hammond accuses Boris Johnson of trying to 'wreck' chances of new Brexit deal

ITV News

<https://www.itv.com/news/2019-08-13/hammond-warns-johnson-against-betraying-referendum-with-no-deal-brexit/>

Former chancellor Philip Hammond has accused the Prime Minister of trying to "wreck" the chances of a new Brexit deal, by making demands the EU will not accept.

Mr Hammond continued that Boris Johnson would commit a betrayal of the referendum if he enacted a no-deal Brexit by listening to the "unelected" saboteurs "who pull the strings" of his Government.

Mr Hammond, who resigned in anticipation of Mr Johnson becoming Prime Minister and who has campaigned vociferously against no-deal, urged the Tory leader to take the UK out of the European Union with a deal in place.

But he said early signs for that "are not encouraging", warning that demands to abolish the backstop had become a "wrecking" stance over a deal.

"The pivot from demanding changes to the backstop to demanding its total removal is a pivot from a tough negotiating stance to a wrecking one," he said.

The 63-year-old declined to answer questions when approached by ITV News.

"The unelected people who pull the strings of this Government know that this is a demand the EU cannot and will not accede to," the Tory backbencher wrote in The Times on Wednesday in an apparent swipe at the Prime Minister's top advisor, Dominic Cummings.

Mr Hammond said he was busting two "great myths" over a no-deal Brexit, arguing it will be damaging to the nation – both economically and to the union – and that voters do not back the move.

"Most people in this country want to see us leave in a smooth and orderly fashion that will not disrupt lives, cost jobs or diminish living standards, whether they voted Leave or Remain in 2016," he wrote.

"Parliament faithfully reflects the view of that majority and it will make its voice heard.

"No-deal would be a betrayal of the 2016 referendum result.

"It must not happen."

Mr Hammond also accused "some key figures in the Government" of "absurdly" suggesting no-deal would boost the UK's economy.

[REDACTED]

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Tel: [REDACTED]

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No Deal Brexit - Media Note - 14/07/19

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Brexit: John Bercow vows to stop PM from closing Commons to force no deal

SKY News

<https://news.sky.com/story/brexit-john-bercow-vows-to-stop-pm-from-closing-commons-to-force-no-deal-11784850>

John Bercow has said he will fight "with every bone in my body" any attempts by Boris Johnson to shut parliament to force through a no-deal Brexit.

The Commons Speaker said "nobody is going to get away as far as I am concerned" with stopping MPs taking action to avoid the scenario, according to The Daily Telegraph.

In his first public comments since the new prime minister won the keys to Number 10, the paper said Mr Bercow also went one step further and claimed the Commons could stop Britain leaving the EU without a withdrawal agreement on 31 October.

The option of suspending parliament - known as "proroguing" it - was raised when Sky News reported Mr Johnson's team were considering it during the Tory leadership race.

It sparked a fierce backlash from opponents who said they would challenge the move in the courts, including former Conservative prime minister Sir John Major.

But in his first comments on the matter since Mr Johnson entered Downing Street, Mr Bercow firmly indicated he would block the prime minister trying to close the Commons.

"The one thing I feel strongly about is that the House of Commons must have its way," he is reported to have said on Tuesday at the Edinburgh Fringe festival.

"And if there is an attempt to circumvent, to bypass or - god forbid! - to close down parliament that is anathema to me and I will fight it with every bone in my body to stop that happening.

"We cannot have a situation in which parliament is shut down - we are a democratic society and parliament will be heard and nobody is going to get away as far as I am concerned with stopping that happening."

An audience member quoted by The Telegraph then shouted out to ask if parliament could still stop a no-deal Brexit, to which Mr Bercow reportedly replied unequivocally: "Yes."

MPs opposed to a no-deal divorce on Halloween are plotting how to block it happening by either triggering a vote of no confidence to try to oust Mr Johnson or by wrestling control of Commons procedure, as they did in April.

Mr Johnson has demanded the EU renegotiate its withdrawal agreement it drew up with Theresa May, but Brussels has refused, resulting in stalemate since the new prime minister took over.

Former chancellor Philip Hammond also made a dramatic intervention in the Brexit debate by saying it is was a "travesty" to suggest Leave voters in the 2016 referendum were opting for a no-deal divorce from the EU.

He called on Mr Johnson to "demonstrate" his "commitment to a genuine negotiation with the EU to achieve a deal" in a comment piece for The Times.

And Mr Hammond appeared to take aim at the prime minister's most senior adviser, Dominic Cummings, attacking a group of "unelected people who pull the strings of this government".

A Number 10 source told Sky News: "Hammond actively undermined the government's negotiating position by frustrating and obstructing preparation to leave EU.

"Everyone knows the ex-chancellor's real objective was to cancel the referendum result."

Twitter

https://twitter.com/PhilipHammondUK/status/1161397591906689024?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1161397591906689024&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fnews.sky.com%2Fstory%2Fbrexit-john-bercow-vows-to-stop-pm-from-closing-communications-to-force-no-deal-11784850

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No deal Brexit horrifies Hammond as he reveals No10 strategy will force outcome he dreads

Express

<https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/1165491/Brexit-news-no-deal-Philip-Hammond-Dominic-Cummings-Boris-Johnson-EU-backstop-latest>

A NO DEAL Brexit could soon become a reality due to Downing Street advisers pushing Boris Johnson to pursue a hard stance the European Union will never bow down to, former Chancellor Philip Hammond claimed.

A no deal Brexit scenario is more likely to pan out in October due to the switch towards a harder position Boris Johnson turned to under the advice of his top aides, according to former Chancellor Philip Hammond. Mr Hammond suggested Number 10 advisers have told the Prime Minister to demand the European Union agree to remove the Irish backstop despite knowing Brussels would never budge, inching Britain closer to a no deal. Speaking to the BBC's Today programme, the former frontbencher said: "It's very tempting from London to see the EU as a monolithic bloc threatening the UK. The truth is slightly different.

A no deal Brexit scenario is more likely to pan out in October due to the switch towards a harder position Boris Johnson turned to under the advice of his top aides, according to former Chancellor Philip Hammond. Mr Hammond suggested Number 10 advisers have told the Prime Minister to demand the European Union agree to remove the Irish backstop despite knowing Brussels would never budge, inching Britain closer to a no deal. Speaking to the BBC's Today programme, the former frontbencher said: "It's very tempting from London to see the EU as a monolithic bloc threatening the UK. The truth is slightly different.

EU assault: Former White House official makes savage attack on EU

"Their coalition of 27 is itself a very fragile coalition and they have agreed on a stance. If they were to reopen the terms of the withdrawal agreement that coalition would undoubtedly fragment.

"They are not going to take that risk, they simply are not. And the people, the smart people in Whitehall, understand that extremely well and they know that by setting the bar at the level of removing the backstop altogether, they are effectively ending any possibility of a discussion with the European Union."

Mr Hammond argued the Prime Minister pledged to deliver on a deal and that Mr Johnson had expressed "confidence" he would get one to support his claims.

He continued: "We were talking until a few weeks ago about the need to change the terms of the backstop and, although that would have been a difficult discussion, it was a tough negotiating position.

"Pivoting to the backstop has to go in its entirety, a huge trunk of the withdrawal agreement, just scrapped, is effectively a wrecking tactic. The people behind this know that means there will be no deal."

Asked to explain who he meant by "the people behind" the Prime Minister, Mr Hammond added: "Those who are pulling the strings in Downing Street, those who are setting the strategy.

"Boris Johnson has told me, privately, and he's told the country publicly that he is determined to get a deal and confident that he can get one.

"I fear there are people around him whose agenda is different."

Boris Johnson pledged to deliver Britain out of the EU on October 31, insisting he would be able to convince Brussels to reopen the withdrawal agreement to have the controversial Irish backstop from the deal.

The insurance clause was originally included to ensure no hard border would be reinstated on the island of Ireland in the event of no deal Brexit but the backstop provoked the concerns of Brexiteers worried the policy could be used to keep the UK closely aligned to the customs union and the single market.

Dominic Cummings, who was a campaign director for Vote Leave, was appointed into Mr Johnson's team after his successful Tory leader contest win.

Speaking on BBC's Westminster Hour newly-appointed Trade Minister Conor Burns claimed Mr Cummings was one of the two leading figures in securing Brexit in the first place.

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No Deal Brexit Media Note - 13/07/19

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No-deal will give terrorists the impetus they need to bring violence back to NI, says
ex-Secretary of State

Belfast Telegraph

<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/nodeal-will-give-terrorists-the-impetus-they-need-to-bring-violence-back-to-ni-says-exsecretary-of-state-38398176.html>

A former Northern Ireland Secretary has warned that Boris Johnson could fuel a resurgence of violence if he continues to pursue a no-deal Brexit.

Shaun Woodward, who served as Secretary of State under Prime Minister Gordon Brown from 2007 until 2010, said he fears a no-deal Brexit leading to a hard border between Northern Ireland and the Republic will give "the bad people" a political cause to resurrect a campaign of terrorism.

Speaking on LBC Radio yesterday, Mr Woodward said the risk of seeing a resurgence of violence is "enormous" should the Prime Minister continue on his course towards a no-deal scenario.

"I'd rather right now we had Jeremy Corbyn leading this country than Boris Johnson," he said.

"Jeremy Corbyn respects democracy. You may not agree with a number of his policies but the fact of the matter is, he respects democracy.

"He actually does think that the vote matters in this country and right now I support a government of national unity, whether led by Jeremy Corbyn or someone else.

"We need to respect just how dangerous a place we are in, and I take it back to Northern Ireland.

"I fear that we're going to give the bad people who have been restraining themselves from violence all they've been looking for since the Good Friday Agreement - a so-called political cause.

"If Boris Johnson gives them a hard border between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, the risk to seeing a resurgence of violence in Northern Ireland is enormous and it is irresponsible not to think this through."

Mr Woodward, who was a Conservative MP before switching to the Labour Party in 1999, also said Mr Johnson was running scared of calling a general election.

He said: "If Mr Johnson and Dominic Cummings are so certain of their position, why not have the general election and presume you will have your majority to pursue this reckless policy?

"The reason they are frightened of it is it probably isn't going to give them a majority."

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No Deal Brexit Media Note - 13/07/19

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No-deal Brexit battle set to come to head in September

The Guardian

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/aug/12/no-deal-brex-it-battle-september-johnson>

Boris Johnson is preparing for a parliamentary battle against MPs trying to block a no-deal Brexit in the second week of September, as his cross-party opponents continue to be divided about the best way to stop the UK crashing out on 31 October.

A senior government source said Downing Street believed the first legislative showdown over no deal would be on 9 September, when parliament is due to debate a progress report on power-sharing in Northern Ireland.

The expectation is that a cross-party group of MPs will try to use this to carve out time to legislate against a no-deal Brexit by requesting an extension to article 50.

The prime minister could face a confidence motion brought by Jeremy Corbyn aimed at collapsing his government as early as 3 September, when MPs return from their summer break.

Diane Abbott, the shadow home secretary, said on Monday that an early confidence motion in the prime minister "has to be an option". However, senior Labour and rebel Conservative sources are sceptical about whether they have the numbers to defeat Johnson at this stage, as many Tory MPs still believe there are legislative routes to prevent a no-deal Brexit that have to be exhausted first.

One source close to a former cabinet minister, who is coordinating efforts to stop no-deal, said they believe at least five or six Conservative MPs would be needed to vote against Johnson's government, but "the numbers aren't there yet". This is because several independent MPs and possibly some Labour MPs opposed to a second referendum could abstain or vote with the government.

One independent MP said speculation about a no-confidence vote immediately after recess was "jumping ahead of events". "You need Tory rebels to win, and they have to have a reason to support it," the MP said. "It can't just be tokenistic, and it can't just be because Boris isn't the leader you wanted. There has to be a coherent reason and a coherent subsequent plan to stop no deal."

As uncertainty clouds the confidence vote, there are several different cross-party groups trying to devise legislative ways to stop a no-deal Brexit involving senior Tory MPs such as Dominic Grieve and Philip Hammond.

However, they have not yet agreed on a single strategy, and the Institute for Government warned on Sunday that MPs opposed to no-deal may "find few opportunities to make their move – and time is running out".

A senior government source said Downing Street expects the first showdown to happen on 9 September because the government is bound by law to provide a report on Northern Ireland on 4 September and to then debate it in parliament within five days.

Boris Johnson may meet key EU leaders, such as Angela Merkel and Emmanuel Macron, but not Ireland's Leo Varadkar, before the G7 summit in Biarritz, France, at the end of August.

The EU is adamant that the backstop is not up for renegotiation, but the senior government source said there was still hope in Downing Street that a deal might be possible if it became clear that parliament could not prevent no deal on 31 October.

The government source said No 10 was not expecting any breakthrough with the EU until Brussels had seen what happens in the first weeks of September, as the parliamentary battle plays out.

One Tory MP fighting against no deal said this was part of No 10's effort to unfairly blame their side for frustrating a deal with Brussels, and Downing Street had been quite successful in "picking off" colleagues who were worried about being held responsible. However, the MP said a vote of no confidence in Johnson's government would have more chance of success later in October, as the reality of no-deal drew nearer and its consequences became more apparent.

They said this was a "very nuclear option" that would only be tried as a last resort, given the risk that this approach could backfire and lead to an election after a no-deal Brexit.

If a no-confidence vote was passed, MPs would first have 14 days to form an alternative government, but if this was unsuccessful an election would be triggered. In this event, Dominic Cummings, Johnson's senior adviser, has threatened to press ahead with Brexit on 31 October with or without a deal and schedule the election for the days after that date, while parliament is shut down.

The prime minister's official spokesman said Johnson remained "very clear in his determination to get a deal". He said: "He believes a deal is in the UK's and the EU's best interests and he has said he will be energetic in pursuit of a deal. We very much want a deal, but we're also clear about what needs to be achieved in order to secure that."

The spokesman added: "He has held a number of conversations with EU leaders, so has the prime minister's sherpa, David Frost. We are also making very detailed preparations at home to ensure the UK is ready to leave the EU in all circumstances on 31 October."

Stephen Barclay, the Brexit secretary, said he had stressed the government's message that the UK is leaving on October 31 with or without a deal in a conversation with EU commissioner Phil Hogan, saying that "while we're ready to energetically enter into new negotiations in a spirit of friendship, the backstop must go".

Earlier, Robert Buckland, the justice secretary, acknowledged that he had previously argued that crashing out of the EU without a deal would be chaos. "[The prime minister] wants to achieve a deal, but if we cannot achieve a deal, then it needs to be as orderly a Brexit as possible. That is why the work of government at the moment is focused hugely on that effort."

Buckland added that "there is a difference between crashing out and not achieving a deal", and said ongoing work would "avoid the chaos of a crash-out".

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PM Media Note - 13/07/19

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Breakthrough unlikely when Varadkar meets Johnson, Dublin says

Belfast Telegraph

<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/breakthrough-unlikely-when-varadkar-meets-johnson-dublin-says-38398199.html>

There is little hope that a meeting between Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Taoiseach Leo Varadkar will lead to any breakthrough on Brexit, Irish officials believe.

Mr Johnson is expected to travel to Dublin next month although there is no belief on the Irish side that the occasion will be much more than both men setting out their already well established positions.

Mr Johnson yesterday reiterated his determination to leave the EU on October 31 regardless of whether a compromise can be reached.

He still maintains that fresh talks cannot begin unless the EU agrees to scrap the so-called backstop.

The Prime Minister said yesterday that Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn wants to "cancel the referendum and argue about Brexit for years".

"I am committed to leading our country forward and getting Britain out of the EU by October 31."

Yesterday Mr Johnson updated US President Donald Trump on Brexit during a phone call, Downing Street said.

A Number 10 spokeswoman said: "They discussed global economic issues and trade, and the Prime Minister updated the President on Brexit."

Earlier, Diane Abbott said a confidence vote in Mr Johnson will be put forward once Labour believes it can win it.

The shadow home secretary said it was "above my pay grade" to confirm whether the Opposition's bid to test MPs' level of support for the Prime Minister would take place immediately after Parliament returns in early September.

But she confirmed talks are taking place with other parties in Parliament after claiming Mr Johnson's "bogus unfunded announcements" on law and order, among others, are costing him support.

Her remarks came after a leading think tank warned that MPs may have little chance of stopping Mr Johnson pushing through a no-deal Brexit when Parliament returns.

The Institute for Government (IFG) said MPs may have limited opportunities to stop a no-deal break and that, even if Mr Johnson loses a confidence vote, he may still try to plough on regardless.

The findings echo the reported view of the Prime Minister's top adviser Dominic Cummings, who is said to have told him that opponents of no-deal had left it too late.

Ms Abbott, asked if Labour is planning to move a vote of no confidence against Mr Johnson's Government in the first week of Parliament's return, said: "It's above my pay grade to say when we'll move the vote of no confidence.

"But who has confidence in Boris Johnson apart from the people around him? The more he announces these bogus unfunded announcements, I think the less confidence there will be in him in the general public."

Told that the motion has to be moved soon to stop Brexit, Ms Abbott replied on BBC Radio 4's Today programme: "Yes, it does. But one of the things we have to do is consult with other parties - it's no good moving a vote of no confidence if the Lib Dems, for instance, are not going to vote for it."

She added: "We are talking to all of the other parties in Parliament and, if we move for a vote of no confidence, we'll want to do it with confidence that we can win it."

Belfast Telegraph

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Brexit Digest - 12.8.19



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EXECUTIVE INFORMATION SERVICE

BREXIT DIGEST

MONDAY 12 AUGUST 2019

Daily Telegraph P8 – Time running out for Remain MPs who want to block no-deal – In a new paper, the Institute for Government think-tank has said that time and options are running out for Remain MPs to block no-deal. The paper appears to vindicate comments made by Dominic Cummings, who has reportedly told colleagues that Remain MPs have missed their last opportunity to stop no-deal.



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Fwd: EU Update - INTERVIEW SUMMARY - Lord Heseltine -
Sky Sophy Ridge - Sunday 11 August 2019

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Lord Heseltine: *You write an op-ed in the Sunday Times saying that a no-deal Brexit would be the most grotesque act of self-harm in peacetime - isn't that a bit OTT?* No, I don't think so. You could add that the Union itself is at risk, the economy is stalling, inflation is rising and investment is on hold. There is no parliamentary majority for what the Govt wants to do. *I spoke to Sajid Javid two days ago and he says he is not worried about the implications of no-deal Brexit?* He should listen to advisers, such as the Bank of England. That's what he says, but we know from surveys of international expertise that the situation is serious. The Govt is splashing money about and it is a policy of economic irresponsibility. *You say Dominic Cummings is a revolutionary menace?* I think he sees himself as a revolutionary. This guy is briefing the media and scathingly attacking MPs and parading himself as the mastermind behind the Govt. That is intolerable to democracy. We are being told by this particular figure - and he is proud of it - that he is more or less running the show. *A no-deal Brexit?* The Leave campaign made clear that there would be a deal. There is no majority in Parliament or in the country for a no-deal. *Have you had the whip restored?* I was sacked by the PM for saying there should be a meaningful vote. Three weeks later that became Govt policy. I have fought for the Conservative Party since the 1950s and have supported

successive Prime Ministers, who all thought the UK's interests are in Europe. I will never sacrifice the national interest for narrow party interests. It would be an abuse of the constitution if you took the country out of the EU despite the House of Commons. A large number of Conservatives will not vote for a no-deal Brexit. I will not myself determine who people should vote for, but I think large numbers of people will vote for the national interest and therefore someone who stands for the European destiny. *What is the solution here?* I would be happy with a solution that leaves Britain at the heart of Europe. But we are where we are. The most likely scenario is continued uncertainty, but the worst thing to do is to then add to the uncertainty by cutting the ground under the economy (Sky 0902 i/v).

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Media and Campaigns Manager

Stormont House, Stormont Estate

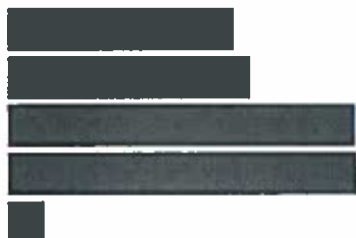
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EXECUTIVE INFORMATION SERVICE

BREXIT DIGEST

THURSDAY 8 AUGUST 2019

Guardian P1 – New rebel bid to halt no deal maid fury at Prime Minister's enforcer – A cross party group of MPs is looking at legislative options with urgency because of the hardline tactics of Dominic Cummings, who was described by on Tory inside as running 'a reign of terror' in No10 aimed at achieving Brexit on 31 October at any cost. It would involve forcing parliament to sit through the autumn recess amid growing outrage about the power and influence of Boris Johnson's aide who has indicated that proroguing parliament, or ignoring the result

of any no confidence vote in the Prime Minister could be held after Britain had left the EU.

The Times P8 – Prime Minister’s strategist steps from the shadows to hit back at Grieve – Boris Johnson’s most senior adviser Dominic Cummings has suggested that Tory Remainer Dominic Grieve will be unable to stop a no-deal Brexit, in his first public comments since being appointed. Dominic Grieve has said the Queen could be left with no choice but to sack Mr Johnson following a no confidence motion. However, Mr Cummings has told colleagues that Mr Johnson would not resign and would instead push for a general election the day after Brexit on November 1, former Foreign Secretary, Sir Malcolm Rifkind, warned that this would trigger the ‘gravest’ constitutional crisis since the civil war.

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Media Monitoring Unit | Digital Shared Services

Massey House | Stormont Estate | Belfast | BT4 3SX

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Brexit Digest 6.8.19

DoF EIS Media
Monitoring Unit
<EIS.MediaMonitoringUnit@finance-ni.gov.uk>

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to

EXECUTIVE INFORMATION SERVICE

BREXIT DIGEST

TUESDAY 6 AUGUST 2019

The Times P1 – Johnson to defy any vote of no-confidence – Boris Johnson would refuse to resign even after losing a confidence vote so he could force through a no-deal Brexit on October 31. Dominic Cummings the PM's most senior aide told colleagues last week that Mr Johnson would not quit if Tory remainers voted with Labour to bring down the government.

The Times P6 – Hammond deliberately blocked no-deal plans, says Cummings – Philip
Hammond has been accused of undermining preparations for a no-deal Brexit 'for political purposes'. Dominic Cummings said that the former Chancellor had blocked no deal planning because they did not want Britain to leave the EU without a deal.



Brexit Digest 5.8.19

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EXECUTIVE INFORMATION SERVICE

BREXIT DIGEST

MONDAY 5 AUGUST 2019

Irish Times P9 – No-deal Brexit can be averted when Parliament returns, says Labour Party – Labour has said Downing Street is wrong to think it is already too late to stop a no-deal Brexit. Shadow Health Secretary Jonathan Ashworth said he did not accept a claim by Dominic Cummings that even if MPs were to pass a vote of no-confidence in the PM in the autumn, the electoral timetable means any general election would not take place in time to stop the UK leaving the EU on 31 October.

[REDACTED]

CJ4 no.	Extract no.	First Date	Last Date	Title/Description	Retained or Closure
CJ4/2849/1		01/01/1974	31/12/1975	Northern Ireland Office Security Enquiries in to Leakages of Information: Colin Wallace Case-Information Policy in NI Security / Administration [pt. 1 of 2]	Retained
CJ4/2849/1	1	01/01/1974	31/12/1975	Closed Extract: Document 98	Closure
CJ4/2849/2		01/01/1974	31/12/1975	Northern Ireland Office Security Enquiries in to Leakages of Information: Colin Wallace Case-Information Policy in NI Security / Administration [pt. 2 of 2]	Retained
CJ4/4029		01/01/1981	31/12/1982	Kincora: Committee of Enquiry into Childrens Homes and Young Persons Hostels	
CJ4/4029	1			Closed Extract: Documents 5, 6A, 15A, 17, and 23	Closure
CJ4/4030		01/01/1982	31/12/1982	Committee of Enquiry into Childrens Homes and Young Persons Hostels [Kincora]	
CJ4/4030	1	01/01/1982	31/12/1982	Closed Extract: Flag A, Flag B, and Flag C	Closure
CJ4/4031		01/01/1982	31/12/1982	Kincora: Committee of Enquiry into Childrens Homes and Young Persons Hostels	
CJ4/4031	1	01/01/1982	31/12/1982	Closed Extract: Flag A and Flag B	Closure
CJ4/4037		01/01/1982	31/12/1982	Kincora Boys Home and Related Matters; Committee of Inquiry Into Childrens Homes & Young Persons Hostels: Allegations of Homosexuality	
CJ4/4037	1	01/01/1982	31/12/1982	Closed Extract: Documents 4, 5, 7, 23, 32, 56, Flag X, Flag Y, Flag Z	Closure
CJ4/4345		01/01/1978	31/12/1983	Kincora: Committee of Enquiry into Childrens Homes and Young Persons Hostels	
CJ4/4345	1	01/01/1978	31/12/1983	Closed Extract: Documents 12 and 14	Closure
CJ4/4407		01/01/1983	31/12/1983	Kincora Boys Home and Related Matters; Committee of Inquiry Into Childrens Homes & Young Persons Hostels: Allegations of Homosexual Offences & Misconduct	
CJ4/4407	1	01/01/1983	31/12/1983	Closed Extract: Documents 38 and 39A	Closure
CJ4/4408		01/01/1983	31/12/1983	Committee of Enquiry into Childrens Homes and Young Persons Postels [Kincora]	
CJ4/4408	1	01/01/1983	31/12/1983	Closed extract: Flag A	Closure
CJ4/4514		01/01/1983	31/12/1983	Kincora Enquiry	
CJ4/4514	1	01/01/1983	31/12/1983	Closed Extract: Flag C (annex to letter of 23/11/1983)	Closure
CJ4/4515		01/01/1983	31/12/1983	Kincora Sp	
CJ4/4515	1	01/01/1983	31/12/1983	Closed Extract: Anex Doc 46 close all	Closure
CJ4/5190		01/01/1983	31/12/1984	Committee of Enquiry into Childrens Homes and Young Persons Postels [Kincora]	



CJ4 no.	Extract no.	First Date	Last Date	Title/Description	Retained or Closure
CJ4/5190	1	01/01/1983	31/12/1984	Closed extracts: Flag A, Annex Document 28, Document 39, Flag B, Flag C, Document 40, Flag D, Documents 51, 52, 53, 54A, 57, 58, 68A, 86, 54, 55, 56	Closure
CJ4/5644		01/01/1985	31/12/1985	Committee of Enquiry into Children's Homes & Young Persons' Hostels (Kincora)	
CJ4/5644	1	01/01/1985	31/12/1985	Closed Extract: Document 2, and Document 24	Closure
CJ4/6382		01/01/1985	31/12/1986	Committee of Enquiry into Childrens Homes and Young Persons Hostels [Kincora]	
CJ4/6382	1	01/01/1985	31/12/1986	Closed Extract: Attatchment to Flag C, and Attatchment to Flag D	Closure
CJ4/6383		01/01/1983	31/12/1986	Kincora Boys Home and Related Matters; Committee of Inquiry Into Childrens Homes & Young Persons Hostels: Allegations of Homosexual Offences & Misconduct	
CJ4/6383	1	01/01/1983	31/12/1983	Closed Extract: Documents 21, 22, 22A, 24, 25, 26, 27, 23, and 23A	Closure
CJ4/7018		01/01/1987	31/12/1987	Kincora: Committee of Enquiry into Childrens Homes and Young Persons Hostels (Holroyd and Wallace)	
CJ4/7018	1	01/01/1987	31/12/1987	Closed Extract: Document 26	Closure
CJ4/8000		01/01/1982	31/12/1992	Kincora - JC Wallace	
CJ4/8000	1	01/01/1982	31/12/1992	Closed Extract: Flag B	Closure
CJ4/8007		01/01/1989	31/12/1990	Fred Holroyd's Book 'War Without Honour'	
CJ4/8007	1	01/01/1989	31/12/1990	Closed Extract: Flag C and Flag D	Closure
CJ4/8007	2	01/01/1989	31/12/1990	Closed Extract: Flag B, Flag E, and Flag F	Closure
CJ4/8008		01/01/1988	31/12/1989	Kincora etc. Allegations by Wallace and Holroyd	
CJ4/8008	1	01/01/1988	31/12/1989	Closed Extract: Flag E and Flag G	Closure
CJ4/8010		01/01/1989	31/12/1989	Kincora: Allegations by Wallace and Holroyd	
CJ4/8010	1	01/01/1989	31/12/1989	Closed Extract: Flag A and Flag B	Closure
CJ4/8010	2	01/01/1989	31/12/1989	Closed Extract: Orange Flag B, Orange Flag C, Orange Flag E, and Orange Flag F	Closure
CJ4/8012		01/01/1989	31/12/1989	Kincora Allegations by Hillroyd and Wallace	
CJ4/8012	1	01/01/1989	31/12/1989	Closed Extract: Yellow Side Flag E	Closure
CJ4/8012	2	01/01/1989	31/12/1989	Closed Extract: Yellow Side Flags A, B, C, D, E, and F	Closure
CJ4/8016/1		01/01/1990	31/12/1990	Kincora allegations by Hillroyd and Wallace [pt.1 of 2]	



CJ4 no.	Extract no.	First Date	Last Date	Title/Description	Retained or Closure
CJ4/8016/1	1	01/01/1990	31/12/1990	Closed Extract: Flag J	Closure
CJ4/8016/2		01/01/1990	31/12/1990	Kincora allegations by Hillroyd and Wallace [pt.2 of 2]	
CJ4/8016/2	2	01/01/1990	31/12/1990	Closed Extract: Flag D	Closure
CJ4/8017		01/01/1990	31/12/1990	Kincora: Allegations by Wallace and Holroyd	
CJ4/8017	1	01/01/1990	31/12/1990	Closed Extract: Flag F	Closure
CJ4/8022		01/01/1990	31/12/1990	Kincora: Allegations by Wallace and Holroyd	Retained
CJ4/8026		01/01/1989	31/12/1990	Kincora	
CJ4/8026	1	01/01/1989	31/12/1990	Closed Extract: Flag B	Closure
CJ4/8027		01/01/1984	31/12/1990	Kincora	
CJ4/8027	1	01/01/1984	31/12/1990	Closed Extract: Flag A, Flag B, Flag C, Flag, D, Flag E, Flag F, Flag G, Flag H, Flag I, Flag J, Flag K, and Flag L	Closure
CJ4/8029		01/01/1989	31/12/1989	Mr Colin Wallace / Kincora Boys Home / Allegations	
CJ4/8029	1	01/01/1989	31/12/1989	Closed Extract: Document 1, Document 12, and Document 20	Closure
CJ4/8032		01/01/1989	31/12/1989	Mr Colin Wallace / Kincora Boys Home / Allegations	
CJ4/8032	1	01/01/1989	31/12/1989	Closed Extract: Attatchement to Document 10	Closure
CJ4/8038		01/01/1990	31/12/1990	Mr Colin Wallace / Kincora Boys Home / Allegations	
CJ4/8038	1	01/01/1990	31/12/1990	Closed Extract: Attatchments to Documents 28 and 29	Closure
CJ4/8039		01/01/1990	31/12/1990	Mr Colin Wallace / Kincora Boys Home / Allegations	
CJ4/8039	1	01/01/1990	31/12/1990	Close Extract: Document 11A	Closure
		01/01/1990	31/12/1991	Colin Wallace CSAB - MoD Papers and Background Papers	recommendation to destroy Sep 2019
		01/01/1985	31/12/1985	Kincora Affair: Report of the Committee of Inquiry into Childrens Homes and Hostels Investigation	recommendation to destroy Sep 2019
		01/01/1974	31/12/1990	Leaks to the Press	recommendation to destroy Sep 2019
		01/01/1985	31/12/1991	Care of Children / Black Committee Report/ Registration of Childrens Homes / Adoption Order	recommendation to destroy Sep 2019



CJ4 no.	Extract no.	First Date	Last Date	Title/Description	Retained or Closure
		01/01/1982	31/12/1989	Wallace/ Holroyd Hansard Extracts	recommendation to destroy Sep 2019
		01/01/1982	31/12/1982	KINCORA BOYS HOME	destroyed Oct 2010
		01/01/1981	31/12/1983	KINCORA BOYS HOME - PRESS CUTTINGS	destroyed Dec 2010
		01/01/1983	31/12/1983	KINCORA BOYS HOME BELFAST AND KINDRED MATTERS : REPORT BY SIR GEORGE TERRY CHIEF CONSTABLE OF SUSSEX TO SIR JOHN HERMON	destroyed Aug 2014
		01/01/1982	31/12/1983	Kincora	destroyed Oct 2015
		01/01/1983	31/12/1986	Kincora	destroyed Jun 2015
		01/01/1982	31/12/1982	Kincora	destroyed Dec 2010



Annex A

Invitation to Randox

From: on behalf of SOS Smith
<sos.smith@nio.gov.uk>
Sent: 20 August 2019 15:32
To:
Subject: Invitation from the Secretary of State
Attachments: Hillsborough Castle Invitation 23_08_19 (17).pdf

For the attention of

Dear

You have been invited to a Business Reception by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, The Rt Hon Julian Smith MP, on Friday 23 August 2019 from 18:30-20:00 at Hillsborough Castle.

Please bring a printed version of the attached invitation with you along with photographic identification to gain access to Hillsborough Castle. Grateful if you could highlight any special dietary or mobility needs when you RSVP.

Parking at the venue is limited and will operate on a first come first served basis, however alternative parking is available in Hillsborough village.

Please can you RSVP to sos.smith@nio.gov.uk

Kind regards,

Secretary of State's Private Office
Northern Ireland Office

NIO Private Office
1 Horse Guards Road, London



Stormont House, Belfast

sos.smith@nio.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/nio

Follow us on Twitter @niopressoffice

Response from Radox

From:

Sent: 03 September 2019 11:36

To: sos.smith@nio.gov.uk

Subject: Invitation

Dear

would like to thank you for the invitation to the Business Reception that was on the 23rd of August. Unfortunately we did not get the invite on time as Radox was on its annual company closure from the 9th of August to the 27th of August, please extend apologies.

Kind regards

Radox Laboratories Ltd.

55 Diamond Road

Crumlin

Co. Antrim

United Kingdom

BT29 4QY

This e-mail and any attachments are confidential and intended solely for the addressee and may also be privileged or exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If you are not the



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Any opinion or other information in this e-mail or its attachments that does not relate to the business of Radox is personal to the sender and is not given or endorsed by Radox.

Radox Laboratories Ltd is incorporated in Northern Ireland.

Company Registration Number: NI015738 Data Protection Registration Number:
Z7894954

VAT Registration Number: GB 151682708



MC/19/643 .

SOS Smith <sos.smith@nio.gov.uk>

To:

CC:

5 August 2019 at 13:21

SOS Smith <sos.smith@nio.gov.uk>

Hi

previous cases were MCs so I have done the same for this one.

The record number for the Minister's Case folder on CM9 is: MC/19/643

Please liaise with any other contacts as necessary.

The deadline for the draft response for SpAd clearance is: 15/08/2019

The deadline for the draft response for Ministers to clear is: 19/08/2019

Many thanks,

----- Forwarded message -----

From: SMITH, Julian <julian.smith.mp@parliament.uk>

Date: Mon, 5 Aug 2019 at 13:53

Subject: FW: Correspondence with previous SOS regarding Contaminated Blood Support Scheme Uplifts

To: SOS Smith <sos.smith@nio.gov.uk>

From:

Sent: 05 August 2019 13:45

To: SMITH, Julian <julian.smith.mp@parliament.uk>

Cc: JOHNSON, Boris <boris.johnson.mp@parliament.uk>

Subject: Correspondence with previous SOS regarding Contaminated Blood Support Scheme Uplifts

Dear Mr Smith

I write to you in your newly recent capacity as Secretary of State For NI and I would like to congratulate you and wish you success in your role, and that yourself and this cabinet with Mr Johnson at the helm can deliver on its promises and hopefully put right some injustices which we see in today's society.

The reason for this letter is due to the fact that I had been in touch with your predecessor and have attached such correspondences around the contaminated blood scandal and how that victims are being treated with a great inequality across the UK.

I would like to request that you; unlike your predecessor can ensure that the victims of the contaminated blood scandal of the NHS, are treated equally to the victims of England.

12/11/2019

At the beginning of the Enquiry hearings on the Rt Hon Theresa May, Prime Minister, pledged that the funding for annual payments in England would raise from £46 million to £75 million, however separate support schemes are set up thorough the dissolved governments and I without a sitting government in Northern Ireland victims here are being left behind.

To put illustration to this I personally contracted hepatitis C when I was a child and am classed as eligible for receiving stage one support payments

- If I lived in England that would mean I would now be in receipt of over £18000 per anum, plus financial aid as I have a dependent child, plus access to the special mechanism which can provide further support if you are effected more severely by this blight of an infection...
- However as I live in Northern Ireland I receive £4500 Per anum and am allowed just over £250 towards dental treatment.

I hope that this has demonstrated the need for urgent parity. Unfortunately The NHS and Viruses which have afflicted us were not so gracious to effect regions in a different manor so neither should the resolve.

The figure required to make this equal for Northern Ireland is approx. £650,000, which in terms of Government spending is quite miniscule! So I again appeal to you to put this right. As I have said in the past these schemes are already in place, they should not need ministerial sign off, simply a signature to uplift the schemes and I believe that this would be well within your remit.

Please consider the victims who as I have said time and again are some of the bravest people I have had the honour of meeting and leave the politics of Northern Ireland out of this. This effected every part of the community through no fault of our own.

As discussed with your predecessor I am happy to meet with yourself (which she had agreed in president,) or any permanent secretary/ civil servant who could potentially help. I have already discussed with the Rt Hon Sammy Wilson who has chatted to Sue Grey and they both support me on this.

All Previous correspondence with your office attached.

Many thanks.



**CHURCH OF IRELAND
THE GENERAL SYNOD**

Church and Society Commission (CASC)

Church of Ireland House, Church Avenue, Rathmines, Dublin 6 D06 CF67

Email: synod@rcbdub.org

DX 10010 Ranelagh

Our Ref:

Your Ref:

**The Rt Hon Karen Bradley MP
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland
Stormont House
Belfast
BT4 3SH**

3 July 2019

RE: THE INFECTED BLOOD PAYMENT SCHEME FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

Dear Secretary of State,

The Church and Society Commission of the Church of Ireland is requesting you, as Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, to increase welfare payments for people living in Northern Ireland who have been infected or otherwise affected by blood contamination.

The Prime Minister announced (on 30 April 2019) that the UK Government will increase the financial support for those infected and affected in England by the contaminated blood scandal; this was announced ahead of the start of the public hearings on the same day. Mrs May stated: "The contaminated blood scandal was a tragedy that should never have happened and has caused unimaginable pain and hurt for victims and their families for decades."

The then Minister of Health, Michelle O'Neill MLA, announced reform of the payment scheme for those affected by infected blood in December 2016, and to be backdated to April 2016, with annual increases linked to the Consumer Price Index; payments were initially set through to the 2018-2019 financial year, the amount given being related to the degree and nature of disease suffered. The increase for those affected and living in Northern Ireland this year will be minimal in comparison to the uplift announced for others in the same situation.

As most of the events being covered by the inquiry relate to a period of direct rule, and this is an issue being dealt with at a national level, then we encourage you to take action. As a church body and remembering the number of times that Our Lord "had compassion" then, at the very least, the same compassion could be shown to those who have suffered from a tragedy that should never have happened.

Yours faithfully,

(Chair)

Church and Society Commission of the Church of Ireland



Northern
Ireland
Office

Secretary of State for Northern Ireland
1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1 2HQ

Stormont House
Belfast
BT4 3SH

[E SoS.Bradley@nio.gov.uk](mailto:ESoS.Bradley@nio.gov.uk)
www.gov.uk/nio
Follow us on Twitter @NIOgov

(Chair)

Church and Society Commission of the Church of Ireland

17 July 2019

Thank you for your letter of 3 July regarding the Infected Blood Inquiry.

I feel deep sympathy for everyone who has been affected by this horrendous, heartbreaking tragedy. Please be assured that I take on board all of your points. I completely understand the frustration at the disparity in financial support across the nations of the United Kingdom, and want to do all I can to make sure the voices of victims in Northern Ireland are heard.

Discussions relating to parity of financial support are ongoing between the Department of Health and Social Care, the devolved governments of Scotland and Wales, and the Department of Health in NI. I look forward to hearing the outcome of those discussions and hope that a resolution can be found to the current disparity as quickly as possible.

Has cv

✓

RT HON KAREN BRADLEY MP
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND



Northern
Ireland
Office

Secretary of State for
Northern Ireland
1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1 2HQ

Stormont House
Belfast
BT4 3SH

E SoS.Smith@nio.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/nio
Follow us on Twitter @NIOgov

16 August 2019

Dear

Thank you for your email of 5 August. First and foremost, I would like to express my sympathy for you. The contaminated blood tragedy was an appalling, shameful episode and I commend you for speaking up on behalf of those in NI who have been affected.

In your correspondence with my predecessor you make a very strong point regarding the disparity in financial support schemes. This has been echoed in many other letters to my department, so I am aware of the pressing need for action. I am informed that discussions are taking place between the devolved administrations with the aim of working towards financial parity, and in my new role I will of course voice my support for this.

I hope you can understand that I have many competing priorities at the moment, but I would welcome the opportunity to speak with you in person as soon as my diary allows. I will ask my private office to get in touch in order to arrange a suitable date.

Yours sincerely,

RT HON JULIAN SMITH MP
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND



Northern
Ireland
Office

Fwd: FW: MC/19/643 - Response from the NIO

1 message

SOS Smith <sos.smith@nio.gov.uk>

22 October 2019 at 15:31

To:

Most grateful if you could acknowledge and set up as an MC for

Many thanks

----- Forwarded message -----

From: SMITH, Julian <julian.smith.mp@parliament.uk>

Date: Tue, 22 Oct 2019 at 15:25

Subject: FW: MC/19/643 - Response from the NIO

To: SOS Smith <sos.smith@nio.gov.uk>

From:

Sent: 22 October 2019 15:21

To: SMITH, Julian <julian.smith.mp@parliament.uk>;

Cc: Boris <boris.johnson.mp@parliament.uk>

Subject: RE: MC/19/643 - Response from the NIO

Mr Smith,

The silence from all the departments and permanent secretary's is unfortunately deafening at the minute.

I am writing to advise that a number of affected and effected have formed a working group, we currently have over 60 members and feel that we represent a far wider base in NI than any other group. and myself are currently acting as co-chairs and are proactively trying to tackle the great inequality in which we are all suffering due to our geographical location.

Since the Chancellor announced the spending rounds at the beginning of September with the suggestion that the inequality should be addressed, this has not happened! We now feel that as a group we are being racially discriminated against by either the NIO, DOF NI or the DOHSC NI and have been in contact with the equalities commission who are sympathetic to our cause.

Obviously with the enquiry still rumbling on, people's health problems, the current Brexit fatigue a civil court case is an option we would rather not take on, especially when it could so easily be rectified by yourself or some of the permanent secretary's.

With this in mind could you please advise if there is any form of progression from the NIO.

Regards

From: _____
Sent: 09 September 2019 14:12
To: _____
Subject: FW: MC/19/643 - response from the NIO

In relation to the SOS response and the recent developments as regards to the Chancellors Spending increases, could you confirm I am still on the agenda for a meeting regarding such?

Regards

From: _____ **On Behalf Of** SOS Smith
Sent: 16 August 2019 12:13
To: _____
Subject: MC/19/643 - Response from the NIO

External Email

Dear _____

Please find response attached from SOS Smith, for your attention.

Kind regards

NIO Private Office
1 Horse Guards Road, London

**SUE GRAY
PERMANENT SECRETARY**

2nd Floor West
Clare House
303 Airport Road West
BELFAST, BT3 9ED



Department of

Finance

An Roinn

Airgeadais

www.finance.ni.gov.uk

Nick Hurd MP
Minister of State for Northern Ireland
Northern Ireland Office
1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

27 August 2019

Dear Nick

Infected Blood – financial support in Northern Ireland and Wales

We discussed the need to address the current disparities between the English financial support scheme for victims of infected blood, and the support schemes of Northern Ireland (and Wales), in the light of commitments made by Theresa May and David Lidington in July this year. I thought it would be worth setting out for you the background to this issue.

On 21 January 2019, David Lidington and Jackie Doyle-Price (at that time the DHSC Minister with responsibility for the Infected Blood issue) met representatives of UK-wide campaign groups to listen to their experiences and hear their concerns about differences in financial and other support available across the separate nations of the UK. As a result of that meeting, and as a first step in addressing the inconsistencies among the national support schemes, on 30 April DHSC announced increases to the financial support scheme in England, bringing it broadly in line with that in Scotland. An unintended consequence of this increase was that it created a disparity between the English scheme and those of Northern Ireland and Wales.

On 10 July, Jackie Doyle-Price chaired a meeting with Scottish and Welsh ministers and, in the absence of Northern Ireland Ministers, Richard Pengelly, the Permanent Secretary of the Northern Ireland Department of Health, and me, to discuss how best to achieve comprehensive parity of support (including financial support, lump sum payments and non-financial support) across the UK. All four nations are committed to achieving parity of support, and the meeting agreed that consultation between the four nations of the UK, aimed at achieving that parity, should proceed as quickly as thoroughness allows.

The meeting also considered the pressing issue of the inadvertent disparity between the English financial support scheme, and those of Northern Ireland and Wales. This is a matter of immediate concern and distress for the infected and affected communities in Wales and Northern Ireland, as Simon Hamilton explained to us when we met him on 21 August. Following the 10 July meeting, Jackie Doyle-Price wrote to David Lidington and the Chief Secretary of the Treasury, seeking their views about addressing this immediate and pressing disparity.

David Lidington replied to Jackie on 23 July, expressing his strong view that the Northern Ireland/Wales issue should be addressed as a matter of urgency, and asking the Chief Secretary to the Treasury to give urgent consideration to agreeing the necessary disbursement of funds to Northern Ireland and Wales.

In one of her final acts as Prime Minister, Theresa May wrote on 23 July to Bill Wright (Chair of Haemophilia Scotland) and other campaigners, updating them on the progress of discussions between the Devolved Administrations. She told them that "It is very important that the Government moves quickly to achieve parity between the English support scheme and the schemes in Northern Ireland and Wales, and that consultation between the four nations of the UK can proceed as quickly as thoroughness allows so that we can make good our commitment to achieving comprehensive parity of support".

Copies of these exchanges are attached.

Since the establishment of the Inquiry, Government has worked hard to build a trusting and positive relationship with the infected and affected communities

and campaign groups. The Prime Minister's recent announcement of additional funding for the NHS, will encourage campaigners to expect urgent action. The cost of the uplift is minimal (approximately £1m pa for Northern Ireland and £3m pa for Wales). The money would pay for uplifts to the regular support payments received by all victims of infected blood. The most significant increases are for those with Hep C Stage 2, and those with HIV, where the uplift would be from £18,833 to £27,000.

The payments would not cover payments of lump sums which will be covered in the wider cross-UK consultation looking at the broad issue of parity which is likely to take months. If we are able to quickly address the narrower issue of the disparity between England and NI/Wales it will show that Government remains committed to supporting the people infected and affected.

I hope that we can make rapid progress to address the disparity; it is the right thing to do.

Yours,

Sue Gray

SUE GRAY



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BT78 1DH

D. Orlaith

17 July 2019

Thank you for your letter of 28 June regarding the Infected Blood Inquiry.

I feel deep sympathy for everyone who has been affected by this horrendous, heartbreaking tragedy. Please be assured that I take on board all of your points. I completely understand the frustration at the disparity in financial support across the nations of the United Kingdom, and want to do all I can to make sure the voices of victims in Northern Ireland are heard.

Discussions relating to parity of financial support are ongoing between the Department of Health and Social Care, the devolved governments of Scotland and Wales, and the Department of Health in NI. I look forward to hearing the outcome of those discussions and hope that a resolution can be found to the current disparity as quickly as possible.

Karen

←

RT HON KAREN BRADLEY MP
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND



Haemophilia NI
Supporting patients and families

Rt Hon Nick Hurd MP
Minister of State
Northern Ireland Office

1/8/2019

Dear Mr Hurd,

I am writing to you as Chair of Haemophilia NI on behalf of Northern Ireland contaminated blood sufferers to introduce myself and to request a short meeting to update you on the issues and concerns impacting on the infected and affected victims of contaminated blood. As you will be aware, the Infected Blood Inquiry was formally established 2 July 2018 and victims hearings have been held in London, Belfast, Edinburgh and Cardiff so far. It has been extremely traumatic and revealing to date and will progress to the corporate hearings in the Spring 2020.

I have the privilege to meet regularly with Ms Sue Gray, Permanent Secretary for the Department of Finance NI and lead sponsoring official of the Infected Blood Inquiry. Sue has advised me to make contact with you and has offered to accompany me when we meet. I would greatly appreciate your willingness to facilitate a short meeting as I assure you I will be brief and respectful of your busy schedule.

Yours sincerely

Chairman Haemophilia NI



The Rt. Hon Theresa May MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

5 July 2019

Dear Prime Minister,

Thank you for your letter of May 10th in response to ours of May 8th which all signatories are aware of. In it you refer to the infected blood scandal touching all parts of the UK and discussions taking place with Devolved Administrations and meetings that were taking place with Northern Irish, Welsh counterparts to the DHSC. We understand that Ministers from DHSC and devolved administrations are now meeting on July 10th.

We welcome your undertaking that officials will be in touch to arrange for a further meeting with Ministers as soon as you are able to update us. We would particularly welcome the involvement in such a meeting of the sponsoring Minister for the Inquiry, The Rt. Hon David Lidington MP, as he has a wider remit than the DHSC alone.

We remain grateful for your having called the Infected Blood Inquiry and addressing the question of support across the UK. If you are able to arrange for a further early meeting with Ministers and thus establish a platform for ongoing dialogue, on what support might be applied UK-wide during the Inquiry and beyond, it would be a small but significant step toward building a better future for all those so severely injured, troubled and bereaved.

We believe dialogue works.

With our best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Jackie Britton	Andy Evans	Su Gorman	Simon Hamilton	Lesley Lawrence	Adrian Melson
Clive Smith	David Thomas	Michelle Tolley	Clair Walton	Glenn Wilkinson	Bill Wright

CC'd

- The Rt. Hon David Lidington CBE MP, Minister for the Cabinet Office and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
- Sir Brian Langstaff, Chair of the Infected Blood Inquiry

Correspondence:

C/O, Haemophilia Scotland, 4th Floor, Hayweight House, 23 Lauriston Street, Edinburgh, EH3 9DQ



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

23 July 2019

THE PRIME MINISTER

Dear Mr Wright

Thank you for your letter of 5 July. I would like to update you on the progress of discussions between the Devolved Administrations to consider how to improve parity of financial support for infected and affected people across the UK.

Jackie Doyle-Price, Minister for Mental Health, Inequalities and Suicide Prevention, held a meeting on 10 July with: Joe Fitzpatrick MSP, Minister for Public Health and Wellbeing, Julie Morgan AM, Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services, Richard Pengelly, Permanent Secretary of the Department of Health in Northern Ireland and Sue Gray, Permanent Secretary of the Department of Finance in Northern Ireland and the lead sponsoring official of the Infected Blood Inquiry.

The meeting agreed that the integrity of the schemes developed under devolution should be respected, in recognition that the four schemes have evolved to address the needs of their respective beneficiary communities, in dialogue with those communities. It also agreed that all four nations are committed to achieving parity of support, while recognising that what is meant by the term parity will need refinement and goes above and beyond financial support alone. As progress is made in improving the schemes and achieving parity of support, the meeting was clear that no beneficiary of any country's scheme will be made worse off, both in terms of financial and other types of support.

To make progress on the basis of these principles, there is a need to acknowledge some complexity. Parity of financial payments is not, for example, the same as parity in how beneficiaries are assessed, or parity of other elements of support, such as counselling. Given this spectrum of how parity between schemes might be interpreted, and the importance of getting this right for all involved, the meeting agreed that further evaluation is needed before we move forward with any changes. As part of this, Cabinet Office officials will be in touch to arrange further meetings with you and the Infected Blood Inquiry about the best way to address these complexities.

At the meeting, those representing Wales and Northern Ireland spoke of how the recent uplift in financial support for those in England has caused an inadvertent disparity between the English scheme and those of Wales and Northern Ireland, which is a matter of immediate concern and distress for their infected and affected communities. As a result of the meeting, dialogue is now underway between the Cabinet Office, Department of Health and Social Care and HM Treasury in order to resolve this immediate and pressing disparity as soon as possible.

Each of the four Administrations remains committed to cooperating fully with the Infected Blood Inquiry, and to making progress on Sir Brian's call for greater parity. It is very important that the Government moves quickly to achieve parity between the English support scheme and the schemes in Northern Ireland and Wales, and that consultation between the four nations of the UK can proceed as quickly as thoroughness allows so that we can make good our commitment to achieving comprehensive parity of support.

I am very grateful for the significant contribution made by you and your co-signatories towards addressing this important issue. I have every confidence that my successor as Prime Minister will continue to provide the Infected Blood Inquiry with all the support that it needs to complete its work, and that the Inquiry will provide the answers that you and all of those infected and affected have waited so long for.

Yours sincerely


The Rt. Hon Boris Johnson MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA



16 October 2019

Dear Prime Minister,

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY AND SUPPORT ACROSS THE UK

We write further to our letter of August 1st 2019, as we still, urgently, await your reply.

In his opening remarks when the oral hearings of the Inquiry reconvened on October 8th 2019, Sir Brian Langstaff, the Inquiry Chair, stressed that he wrote to the Cabinet Office in October 2018 about the inadequacies and variation in financial support and suggested that decisive action should be taken. This has not happened.

We urge you to confirm without further delay that you will meet with us this year regarding financial hardship being experienced across the UK. The people who received infected blood and blood products and their loved ones continue to suffer as a result of the inadequacies in financial support. One person dies every four days following a life with infected blood. We have previously made our position clear to Government in January this year.

Sir Brian said that:

"A year on, evidence is being given by witness after witness which has underscored the point but also a year on some disparities remain."

He also added:

"I would hope there remains the will to take further meaningful steps forward".

Correspondence:

C/O, Haemophilia Scotland, 4th Floor, Hayweight House, 23 Lauriston Street, Edinburgh, EH3 9DQ



Those who live with the consequences of infected blood and blood products, care for family members, or have lost loved ones feel they are being ignored.

We require you in the strongest possible terms to make support for people affected by the infected blood disaster a key priority of your and any future Government. We are copying this letter to the Chancellor and to Oliver Dowden MP as Minister responsible for the Inquiry, and your counterparts in the other nations.

With our regards,

Yours sincerely,

Jackie
Britton

Andy
Evans

Su
Gorman

Simon
Hamilton

Lesley
Brownless

Adrian
Melson

Clive
Smith

David
Thomas

Michelle
Tolley

Clair
Walton

Glenn
Wilkinson

Bill
Wright

CC'd

- The Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer
- The Rt Hon Oliver Dowden CBE MP, Paymaster General and Minister for the Cabinet Office
- Nicola Sturgeon MSP, First Minister of Scotland
- Mark Drakeford, First Minister of Wales
- Mark Sterling, Northern Ireland Permanent Secretary

Correspondence:

C/O, Haemophilia Scotland, 4th Floor, Hayweight House, 23 Lauriston Street, Edinburgh, EH3 9DQ