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Der Calcaques

You have previously raised the issue of support for those tragically infected with HIV and/or hepatitis C through historic treatment with NHS-supplied blood or blood products.

I am writing to let you know that I have today launched a consultation proposing principles for a new, reformed scheme and seeking views on how those principles could be implemented to support those most affected.

Copies of the consultation, titled "Infected Blood: Reform of Financial and other Support" can be downloaded from the Gov.UK website at: www.gov.uk/government/consultations.

Those wishing to respond on-line can access the questionnaire for this consultation at <a href="https://consultations.dh.gov.uk/blood-team/infected-blood">https://consultations.dh.gov.uk/blood-team/infected-blood</a>.

I would be grateful if you would respond to the consultation, and if you would notify and encourage responses from any interested constituents you may have. The consultation runs until midnight on Friday 15 April 2016.

Officials met yesterday with the Chairs and Directors of the five schemes that currently provide support and asked that they bring this consultation to the attention of their registrants and encourage them to respond.

Thank you for your comments and suggestions to date -I hope that this consultation demonstrates we are listening carefully to what people have to say and are keen to find a solution that makes best use of available funds and supports as many of those affected as possible.

JANE ELLISON

Until Kind regards