

Blood and Transplant

Dear colleagues

As we are sure you will have seen reported in the media, the Infected Blood Inquiry (IBI) opened this week.

The IBI has set Terms of Reference which can be accessed on the Inquiry website <https://www.infectedbloodinquiry.org.uk/>. The Terms of Reference include, but are not limited to:-

- The circumstances in which people were given infected blood/blood products.
- The impact on those infected and their families, carers etc (described by the IBI as the affected).
- The adequacy and the timeliness of the response by the Government and Others.
- Consent - examining to what extent people were treated or tested without their knowledge or consent.
- The treatment, care and support provided to those infected and affected.
- Candour and openness and whether there have been attempts to conceal what happened.

Although NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) was only established in 2005, our predecessor bodies did exist prior to this date. NHSBT is a Core Participant in the Inquiry and is doing whatever it can to assist the Inquiry in order that answers can be provided to the questions asked by those infected and affected.

NHSBT will continue to reassure the Inquiry Team and the wider public, that modern safety standards are rigorous, and our blood supply is one of the safest in the world. Our patient information leaflet relating to blood transfusion may help to answer some patient questions.

The below link is to a factsheet which provides further background information which you may consider useful to share with your clinical teams.

<http://hospital.blood.co.uk/media/29935/infected-blood-factsheet.pdf>

If you have any questions, please contact your Customer Service Manager. Alternatively phone our Response Desk on 0208 201 3107, 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday.

Kind regards

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