

## **THE INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY – Information for Service users and Patients**

The Infected Blood Inquiry is an independent public statutory Inquiry established to examine the circumstances in which men, women and children treated by National Health Services (NHS) in the United Kingdom were given infected blood and infected blood products, in particular during the 1970s and 1980s.

Sir Brian Langstaff chaired the Inquiry. It took evidence from 2019 until 2023. The final report is being published on 20th May 2024.

### **Supporting the Inquiry**

NHSBT committed at the outset to do all we could to assist the Inquiry in its search for truth and justice for all. We have heard, and continue to recognise the hurt, pain and suffering of the Infected and Affected.

We have apologised unreservedly for any respect in which it is found that the blood services of the past, or the blood they supplied, was the cause of suffering to any person.

### **NHSBT today**

NHSBT was established in 2005 to provide a national blood and transplantation service to the NHS, looking after blood donation services in England and transplant services across the UK.

We play a unique role in the NHS – we provide life-saving and life-improving treatments from donated blood, organs, tissues and stem cells, and a range of related diagnostic and therapeutic services.

We are responsible for collecting, manufacturing and distributing more than two million lifesaving blood components a year to 260 hospitals and the patients who rely on us. We couldn't do this without our amazing donors.

### **Blood safety**

Modern safety standards are rigorous and have improved enormously since the tragic events which are the subject of the Inquiry.

We follow guidelines and advice from expert committees and bodies, many of which have donor or patient representatives as members. And we are regularly inspected by independent regulators.

The work of the UK blood services over many years means the UK has one of the safest blood supply services in the world.

All blood donors are screened at every donation and their blood is tested in our laboratories before it is sent to hospitals. NHSBT monitors the results from these tests and produces an annual report.

Blood services and blood safety has been transformed not only in terms of technological advances in testing but also in the way that we recruit and ensure that our donors are safe to donate.

Whilst blood transfusion is not, and never will be, without risk, we are confident that with modern science, systems and processes, we are much more responsive and work much more quickly than we did in the past.

We continue to support the Inquiry and will consider carefully how we can implement or assist in implementing any recommendations.

For further information please visit [Infected Blood Inquiry - NHS Blood and Transplant \(nhsbt.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhsbt.nhs.uk/inquiry)

Other useful links:

[Home - Serious Hazards of Transfusion \(shotuk.org\)](https://www.shotuk.org/)

[Epidemiology - Hospitals and Science - NHSBT \(blood.co.uk\)](https://www.blood.co.uk/)

If you have further questions or would like to speak to someone, please call **0208 201 3107** or send an email to [NHSBTCustomerService@nhsbt.nhs.uk](mailto:NHSBTCustomerService@nhsbt.nhs.uk)