

Edinburgh MP calls for action for infected blood scandal victims

Brock calls for speedy action for the victims of the infected blood scandal

Deidre Brock, MP for Edinburgh North and Leith, has called for compensation for the victims of the infected blood scandal to be put in place without further delay.

Ms Brock formally handed in a petition to the UK Parliament on behalf of her constituents, prior to the final report of the Infected Blood Inquiry which will be published on Monday 20 May.

The petition calls on the UK Government to implement the findings of a report published in April 2023, which has already provided recommendations about compensation. The inquiry Chair, Sir Brian Langstaff, made clear at the time that the compensation scheme should be set up straight away, to avoid adding to the decades-long delays people had already suffered, yet over a year later there is still no clarity and no timeframe has been set for payments.

The petition was led in Edinburgh North and Leith by Deidre Brock's constituent Justine Gordon-Smith who, together with her sister Rachel lost their father, Mr Randolph Peter Gordon-Smith, to the contaminated blood scandal in deeply traumatic circumstances. They have been tirelessly campaigning ever since.

Ms Brock said: "I am handing in this petition on behalf of everyone in Edinburgh North and Leith who is working so hard for justice – people who received infected blood, their carers and the families of those who have been lost in the worst treatment disaster in the history of the NHS.

"The moral case for compensation has long been accepted by government, so what are we waiting for? More delays merely worsen people's suffering." "It's a tragic truth that people who were infected are dying while the government dithers over the justice they and their families deserve.

"The interim report was clear that they should go ahead with compensation immediately and that was published over a year ago.

"When will they lay out a clear – and short – timeframe for victims to get the compensation they've been waiting decades to receive? Or is the UK Government planning to kick this into the long grass again until they are kicked out of office?

"I commend the efforts of my constituent Justine who has been tireless in her fight for equitable treatment for all those affected. I stand squarely with her, her sister and everyone who has suffered as a consequence of this scandal. They have already struggled enough and this battle for compensation is one they should not have to keep fighting.

"I urge the government to finally do the right thing and deliver justice to the victims of the infected blood scandal."