

Sir Brian Langstaff
Chair
Infected Blood Inquiry
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15 January 2019

By Email

Dear Sir Brian

Infected Blood Inquiry

Thank you for your recent letter in which you highlight delays in accessing medical records held by NHS England. I have responsibility for leading NHS England's response to the Inquiry.

May I firstly reiterate NHS England's commitment to supporting the Infected Blood Inquiry (IBI) and ensuring those who may have been affected are swiftly responded to.

We now expect that, where NHS England holds patient records, they will be released within the next three weeks, following appropriate redaction and identity verification. Unfortunately, there are some medical records which NHS England does not hold and further information will be provided to all applicants in the very near future.

It has taken some time to respond due to the need to obtain the relevant information governance advice and approval but I want to reassure you that, now the process has been put in place, the path will be smoothed for future applications.

To ensure we continue to be responsive to the Inquiry I would be happy to meet with you or your team. I would also like to take this opportunity to invite a representative of the Inquiry to join NHS England's IBI Response Steering Group. The next meeting will be held on 4th February 2019.

We will send further details to the Inquiry's solicitor, Brian Stanton with whom I know the team here at NHS England has been in regular contact.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Powis'.

Professor Stephen Powis
National Medical Director
NHS England