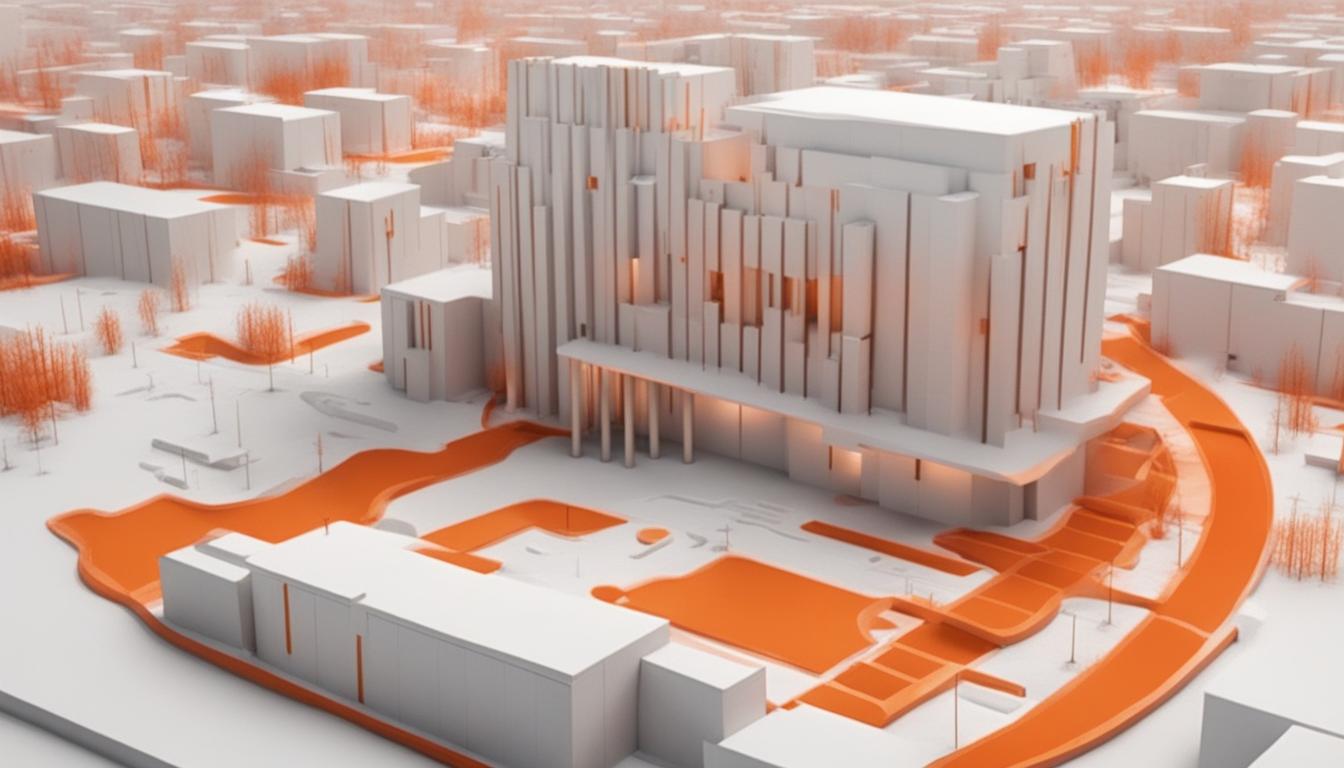
# UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak to Apologize for Infected Blood Scandal



Prime Minister Rishi Sunak is set to issue a formal apology today to victims of the infected blood scandal, a crisis attributed to mismanagement by successive UK governments and the NHS. The scandal, which has resulted in the deaths of over 3,000 people and affected more than 30,000 others, emerged from contaminated blood products supplied in the 1970s and 1980s.

A public inquiry, led by Sir Brian Langstaff, a former High Court judge, was launched in 2018 and its findings are being published today. The report is anticipated to severely criticize the Department of Health and the NHS for continuous use of imported blood products that were known to carry risks of HIV and hepatitis C. Many of the contaminated blood products were imported from the U.S., sourced from high-risk donors such as prisoners and drug addicts. This resulted in infections among individuals treated for blood disorders like hemophilia and those who had blood transfusions.

Tomorrow, the government is expected to unveil plans for a comprehensive compensation scheme, estimated to cost over £10 billion. NHS Chief Executive Amanda Pritchard is also expected to issue an apology.

Over 30,000 UK residents were infected with HIV and hepatitis C due to these blood products, with around 1,250 contracting HIV, including 380 children. Nearly 710 additional victims have died since the inquiry started. Interim compensation payments of £100,000 each have already been distributed to around 4,000 survivors and bereaved partners. Both the Conservative and Labour parties have pledged to honor compensation commitments.

The publication of the inquiry's findings marks a significant moment for victims and their families, many of whom have campaigned for decades for acknowledgment and justice.