# Prime Minister Rishi Sunak pledges comprehensive compensation for victims of infected blood scandal



Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has pledged to compensate victims of the infected blood scandal, stating the government will pay "whatever it costs." In the House of Commons, Sunak issued an unequivocal apology following the publication of Sir Brian Langstaff's report, which exposed the tragic failures of the National Health Service (NHS), civil service, and successive governments. These failures led to thousands of patients being infected with HIV and hepatitis C from the 1970s to the early 1990s through contaminated blood products.

Sunak acknowledged the “appalling truth” that the NHS had failed, and highlighted the deliberate cover-up involving the destruction of documents and the denial of wrongdoing. The scandal has claimed over 3,000 lives and continues to impact many more.

Compensation, including further interim payments, was announced, with a new Infected Blood Compensation Authority to be established to process claims. Sunak stressed the government's commitment to delivering comprehensive compensation and addressing the ongoing injustice. Sir Keir Starmer, Labour leader, also extended his apology, noting failures across all political parties.

The scandal involved patients, including children, being used for research without consent and the use of unsafe blood products from high-risk donors. Sunak described the situation as “a day of shame for the British state.”

The government's commitment aims to address the decades of hurt and injustice suffered by the victims and their families.