

Infected Blood Inquiry

[Prof Brian Edwards](#)
20th November 2022

Van Tam

Professor Van Tam gives evidence about the role of the CMO and his deputies and their freedom to speak directly to the public about health hazards.

The principle had never been challenged in his time.

He explains the “precautionary principle” in public health which dictates that even if the evidence about a hazard is uncertain precautionary measures should be taken.

He talks about the value of expert committees like SAGE and the downside of constant NHS reorganisation.

He refutes suggestions that there was a problem with communication within government and with the devolved nations.

He believed in straight talking with patient groups and would support a wider obligation to comply with a duty of candour.

He saw no reason why a CMO’s advice to ministers should not be made public.

A sensible witness.