

Witness Name: Brendan Brown

Statement No: WITN4496001

Exhibits: WITN4496002 to
WITN4496011

Dated: April 2021

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF BRENDAN BROWN

ON BEHALF OF THE NHS BUSINESS SERVICES AUTHORITY

EXHIBIT BB10 (WITN4496011)

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Infected Blood Inquiry
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Date: 23 March 2020

Rule 9 request- 27 February 2020

Dear Mr Black,

Thank you for your recent Rule 9 request dated 27 February 2020. I can confirm that NHSBSA are committed to assisting the Inquiry, all requested information and related clarification is detailed within my response below.

All evidence requested which contains England Infected Blood Support Scheme (EIBSS) beneficiary personal/medical data has been supplied to the Inquiry via 'Egress' transfer, to allow for secure point to point transfer of this sensitive information. The information can be found in the folder entitled 'Inquiry Response - 27 February 2020'. If you experience any difficulties with the documents we've transferred please contact James Hardy, who will assist the Inquiry directly. His contact details are jameshardy@GRO-C or GRO-C

1. Did the Scheme have access to Miss GRO-A's payment history and documents from the Macfarlane Trust when considering her application?

We did not receive any beneficiaries' documentation from the previous schemes, this was due to data protection. These can be obtained from Russell-Cooke Solicitors.

The Skipton Fund Limited
c/o Russell-Cooke LLP
2 Putney Hill
London
SW15 6AB

GRO-C

a. If so, did the Macfarlane Trust provide her financial support for storage?

As we did not receive beneficiaries' documentation, as mentioned above, we are unable to comment. This could be confirmed by requesting records from Russell-Cooke Solicitors, using the contact details provided above.

b. Are there any other instances where support was refused by the Scheme for purposes that were covered by the previous Trusts and Schemes?¹ If so, why is this case?

As we did not receive beneficiaries' documentation, as mentioned above, we are unable to comment. This could be confirmed by requesting records from Russell-Cooke Solicitors, using the contact details provided above.

Please note as stated within the infected blood consultation document "The previous trusts and schemes evolved in an ad hoc and incremental manner. The five schemes were established on an infection-specific basis and operate according to their own individual criteria".

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) worked with NHSBSA to create a combined single service, now known as the England Infected Blood Support Scheme (EIBSS) with a core intention to provide a clear and balanced service for all those infected and affected.

1 Including the Macfarlane Trust, the Skipton Fund Ltd, the Caxton Foundation, the Eileen Trust and the Macfarlane and Eileen Trust Ltd.

2. Is Miss [GRO-A] still receiving payments from the Scheme? If not, when did these payments cease and why?

Miss [GRO-A] currently receives monthly payments of £2,333.33 and a winter fuel payment each December, the latest amount being £531. Please note the winter fuel payment rises each year in line with CPI.

3. Please provide copies of any relevant documents held on file from the Macfarlane Trust, and copies of any additional applications made by Miss [GRO-A] since February 2018.

We do not hold any beneficiaries' documentation from The Macfarlane Trust. I refer to our response to Question 1.

Applications submitted to EIBSS since February 2018 are listed below:

- 05.02.2018 – Discretionary one off payment towards storage costs
- 31.07.2018 – Income Top Up
- 22.02.2019 – Respite Break
- 19.03.2019 – Income Top Up
- 20.03.2020 – Discretionary one off payment towards storage costs

To assist the inquiry NHSBSA have provided each of the five applications, as named in the list above. The documents have been shared via 'Egress' and are contained within the folder entitled 'Inquiry Response - 27 February 2020'.

4. Miss [GRO-A] has previously been in contact with the Inquiry to express her interest in providing evidence as an infected person. However, the Inquiry team has been unable to reach her using the initial contact details she provided in July 2018.

a. Has the Scheme been in regular contact with Miss [GRO-A] ?

We've sent communications about scheme changes, reminders to reapply for Income Top-Up payments and outcomes of applications. We currently don't pro-actively communicate with the beneficiaries, unless there is a specific need to do so.

b. Did the Scheme signpost her to local social services that could assist with her housing issues? If so, which services did she utilise for assistance and what support was provided?

On 1 February 2018 we received a letter which raised multiple concerns. We signposted Miss [GRO-A] to her local social services and gave advice on crisis loans and budgeting loans. We provided addresses and contact numbers for local offices.

c. Do you know whether Miss [GRO-A] currently has a permanent or temporary address?

We received a letter from Miss [GRO-A] on 1 February 2018, where she stated that she was now classed as homeless, was in temporary accommodation (Hostel) and that she was still with her partner.

d. Please can you provide the Inquiry any updated contact details, including postal address and phone number, in order for the Inquiry team to progress our investigations.

[GRO-A]

Yours sincerely

[GRO-C]

**Brendan Brown
Director Citizen Services**