

Witness Name: Dr Rafe Radford

Statement No.: WITN4153001

Exhibits: None

Dated: 03/04/2020

## INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

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### WRITTEN STATEMENT OF DR RAFE RADFORD

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I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 14 January 2020.

I, Dr Rafe Radford, will say as follows: -

#### **Section 1: Introduction**

1. My name is Rafe Radford. Date of Birth GRO-C1960. Address Larksfield Surgery, Arlesey Road, Stotfold, SG5 4HB. I hold the following qualifications: BM MRCGP
2. I am a General Practitioner currently working in Larksfield Surgery Medical Partnership for the last 30 years.
3. I have not been part of any groups relating to the Inquiry.

#### **Section 2: Background**

4. I do not have access to the original notes of Witness W0142. The following documents have been supplied to me by the Infected Blood Inquiry. I cannot confirm that the records provided are complete and reserve the right to make additions to my statement, should further records come to light.

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|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Patient's Witness statement | WITN0142/001 |
| X-ray Skull                 | WITN0142/002 |
| Clotting screen             | WITN0142/003 |

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|--|--------------|
| Discharge letter from Poole General Hospital                             | WITN0142/004 |
| vCJD and Plasma Products – Information for Patients                      | WITN0142/005 |
| Bournemouth Digestive Diseases Centre clinic letter                      | WITN0142/006 |
| Witness statement from Patient's daughter                                | WITN0883/001 |
| Witness statement of Wayne Cassin  | WITN0883/002 |
| Royal South Hants Hospital – diagnosis of chronic hepatitis C infection  | WITN0883/003 |
| Witness statement of Dr Charles Rees                                     | WITN0883/004 |
| Poole Hospital Medical Record – confirming administration of factor VIII | WITN0883/005 |

5. In 1986 I was a Senior House Officer in Accident and Emergency: Orthopaedics. I do not have records or memory of my schedule as to when I came on duty or when I finished my shift. My duties were to admit patients initially seen in the Accident and Emergency department and assess whether or not they needed admission for observation and /or further management.
6. This statement is thus compiled from memory and the few records I have listed at paragraph 4 supplied by the Infected Blood Inquiry.
7. Witness W0142 was admitted to the A and E department for a head injury following a blow to the head from a kick to the face. I am not able to verify the time from recall or from the documents provided.
8. My usual practice would have been to take a further history and examine the patient before he was admitted to the ward. Documents also provided by the Inquiry included a request for an X-ray of the orbit on 06/03/1986 (**WITN0142/002**). It states "Kicked in face in football. KO'd [?knocked out]" and the report stated: " No fracture in the cranial vault and no orbit injury detected."
9. There is a comment in parenthesis at the bottom of the form for the clotting screen that 4 bottles of factor VIII conc[entrate] were given on advice from Royal Victoria Hospital, Boscombe (RVH) (**WITN0142/003**). From memory I had taken advice on the clotting screen from the Haematology department at the RVH, where I had worked recently as a House Officer.
10. The assessment in the Accident and Emergency department and the severity of the injury led to admission for Head Injury observations in line with usual practice. My concern after a significant head injury was of a secondary intracranial bleed. My actions were likely to have been:
  - a. Taking a history and examining the patient
  - b. Assessing the treatment needed, including admission for head injury observation.

- c. Taking advice on the clotting disorder and implications for management. I am not clear what time of day I asked for further advice from the Haematology department at RVH in Bournemouth.
  - d. I obtained the factor VIII concentrate from the Haematology Department at Poole Hospital.
  - e. My usual practice would have been to put in an Intravenous line and for the factor VIII concentrate to be provided through this.
11. The discharge summary refers to actions after the admission (**WITN0142/004**). There would have been a ward round before the patient was discharged. At this ward round I would have discussed this patient with more senior colleagues. This would lead to the inclusion of follow-up details as set out in the letter of 14/3/1986 including liver tests once every two weeks. There was also a recommendation for review by a haematologist, Dr Omer at Boscombe, to define the qualitative nature of the clotting defect.
12. I sincerely regret the many problems this patient has suffered, which have affected his life so severely. It is something I have continued to think about with regret and sadness even before this reminder of past events.

### **Section 3: Responses to criticism of W0142**

13. In response to question 4 - *"In paragraph 15 of his statement, witness W0142 states that despite his express instructions that under no circumstances should he be given Factor VIII, he awoke in hospital to you injecting him with Factor VIII."*

Given the head injury and the need for previous treatment for a potentially significant clotting defect, it would be usual practice for a junior doctor to get further advice on the clotting defect and its management. I performed a clotting screen that was abnormal. This is evident from the supplied documentation from the Infected Blood Inquiry. I also took advice from the Haematology department at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Boscombe.

14. In response to question 5 – *"In paragraph 61 of his statement witness W0142 states that following his treatment on 7 March 1986, you falsely informed his GP that the witness had said that he was "mildly haemophilic" and had been given Factor VIII in the past."*

I do not recall my interaction with the patient. From the discharge summary dated 14/3/86 I am aware I have stated that the patient provided the following information: "he was mildly haemophilic and had been given Factor VIII in the past."

**Statement of Truth**

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are, to the best of my belief, true.

Signed GRO-C \_\_\_\_\_

Dated \_\_\_\_\_ 03/04/2020 \_\_\_\_\_