

Witness Name: Dr Stephen Ryder

Statement No.: WITN3977001

Exhibits: None

Dated: 26<sup>th</sup> December 2019

## INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

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### WRITTEN STATEMENT OF DR STEPHEN DAVID RYDER

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I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 6 December 2019.

I, Dr Stephen David Ryder, will say as follows: -

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

I am Professor Stephen David Ryder. My address is [GRO-C] London. [GRO-C]. I was born on [GRO-C] 1962. My professional qualifications are BM BS, BMedSci (Hons), DM, FRCP.

I am a Consultant Hepatologist at Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust. The date of commencement of this post was 1<sup>st</sup> June 1994. My role has been as a consultant gastroenterologist and hepatologist. My main area of clinical expertise is the treatment of viral hepatitis and I am responsible for the coordination of hepatitis B and C treatment in Nottingham. I have regular clinics with the primary function of assessment of people with viral liver disease and also work in a team who deliver therapy outside the hospital in community facilities. I have been the NHS England Operational Delivery Network lead for Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Lincolnshire since the initiation of this structure in 2015.

I am not a member currently nor have I been in the past, a member of any committee or group relevant to the Inquiry's Term of Reference.

## **Section 2: Responses to criticism of W0533**

***At paragraphs 6 and 7 of his statement, witness W0533 recalls being informed by you about his hepatitis C diagnosis (HCV) when he was fourteen years old. The witness states that the manner in which you informed him of his diagnosis was improper, particularly because there was no parental or guardian figure present. Please comment on this.***

I do not believe that the recollection of W0533 is correct. I state this on the following grounds:

1. W0533 states that this event took place when he was 14 years old in 1991. I took up my position as consultant hepatologist in Nottingham on 1<sup>st</sup> June 1994. In 1991 I was a trainee in gastroenterology working in London (Northwick Park Hospital, Harrow and St Mary's Hospital, Paddington). I had trained in Nottingham and worked as a pre-registration doctor in Nottingham but this was in 1986, before the discovery of hepatitis C. I did not practice medicine in Nottingham between 1986 and 1994 in any capacity.
2. I am not trained in paediatrics and do not see children under the age of 16 and this has been the case throughout my consultant career.
3. My involvement in the care of people with bleeding disorders who acquired hepatitis B or C via contaminated blood was the management of those disorders once the diagnosis had been made by the haematology team caring for them. I was not involved at any time in the screening of patients with bleeding disorders for blood borne viruses nor breaking the news of a new diagnosis.

Although the medical records are not available to me I believe I first met W0533 in 2006 when he was noted to be hepatitis C antibody positive but RNA negative, indicating natural clearance of hepatitis C. This was confirmed when I met him subsequently in 2017 when the letters he refers to in his witness statement were written.

I am sorry that W0533 has such painful memories around the diagnosis of hepatitis C but his recall is, understandably given his age and the potential impact of such a diagnosis, erroneous. I wish him well for the future.

**Section 3: Other Issues**

1. There are no other issues in relation to which I consider that I have evidence which will be relevant to the Inquiry's investigation of the matters set out in its Terms of Reference.

**Statement of Truth**

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.



Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Dated \_\_\_26<sup>th</sup> December 2019\_\_\_\_\_