

Witness Name: Steven Austin

Statement No.: WITN4568001

Exhibits: None

Dated: 29 July 2020

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF DR STEVEN AUSTIN

I provide this statement on behalf of St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 20 July 2020.

I, Steven Austin, will say as follows: -

Section 1: Introduction

1. My name is Dr Steven Kenneth Austin
My professional address is Department of Haematology, Ground floor Jenner Wing, St George's Hospital, Blackshaw Road, Tooting, London SW17 0QT
Date of Birth **GRO-C** 1972
My professional qualifications are as follows:
 - a) Bachelor of Medical Science, BMedSci - University of Tasmania, Hobart, Tasmania, 7001, Australia; Dec 1993
 - b) Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery with honours, MBBS (hons) - University of Tasmania, Hobart, Tasmania, 7001, Australia; Dec 1996
 - c) Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians, FRACP- Royal Australasian College of Physicians, 145 Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW, 2000, Australia; March 2005
 - d) Fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia, FRCPA –Durham Hall, 207 Albion Street, Surry Hills, NSW 2010, Australia; April 2005
 - e) Certificate of Eligibility of Specialist Registration (CESR) –specialist Register (Haematology) entry date 29 Dec 2010
2. I have held a substantive position as a Consultant Haematologist, and Haemostasis Lead Clinician since Sept 2009. I am responsible for co-ordinating the care of patients with haemophilia and inherited bleeding disorders to comprehensive care standards. The key role of this position is to oversee the provision of services to patients with inherited bleeding disorders. This post also involves providing general and specialist haemostasis and thrombosis services. Participation in the clinical aspects of the haemostasis laboratories, clinical governance activities, departmental administrative duties, and formal and informal teaching are all important duties and responsibilities within the role.

3. St. George's Hospital is part of St. George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. The Foundation Trust includes Queen Mary Hospital, Roehampton amongst others.

Section 2: Response to criticism of W0655

4. W0655 described a 3-day hospital admission to Queen Marys Hospital, Roehampton, with fevers in February 1985, I was unable to find any existing documented evidence of the admission, as medical records from this time period have not been retained. Thus, it is difficult to respond in a meaningful manner to the patients unresolved questions surrounding the admission, and most importantly the diagnosis /causation.
5. Queen Marys Hospital Medical documentation at the time was on paper charts, and hospital numbers were not allocated to patients until after approximately 1985. Computer assisted databases, and electronic recording was introduced just prior to 1990.
6. In 1985, Clinical testing and general virological knowledge was in its infancy, compared to our current times, so the possibility that a precise diagnosis was never reached is likely.
7. On behalf of St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation trust, who now manage Queen Marys Hospital, I offer my sincere apologies to the patient with regards to a lack of a satisfactory explanation for the admission to hospital. I acknowledge that the explanation "you had a virus" is unsatisfactory, lacking detail, and insensitive to the surrounding panic and fear generated by the emerging virulent HIV epidemic of the time.

Section 3: Other Issues

8. None known

Statement of Truth

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

GRO-C

Signed _____

29.07.2020

Dated _____