

Witness Name: Prof Christopher Ludlam
Statement No.: WITN3428025
Exhibits WITN3428043
Dated: 14 November 2020

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF PROFESSOR CHRISTOPHER LUDLAM

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 20 June 2019.

I, Professor Christopher Ludlam, will say as follows: -

Section 1: Introduction

- 1) My full name is Christopher A Ludlam. My date of birth is GRO-C 1946. My address is known to the Inquiry. My professional qualifications are B.Sc, M.B.,Ch.B, MRCP, MRCPPath, Ph.D, FRCP, FRCPPath.
- 2) I have set out the positions I have held as a haematologist in the curriculum vitae held by the Inquiry (WITN3428002).
- 3) All past and present memberships of committees and groups relevant to the Inquiry's Terms of Reference are set out in my curriculum vitae (WITN3428002).

Section 2: Responses to criticism of W2167

- 4) I am sorry to learn of Mr Paul Hutchison's difficulties as he has described in his statement. Although his statement was accompanied by copies of several clinic letters during the period 1994-2000, had I been able to see his medical case records I would have been able to offer a fuller response. I am aware that Mr Paul

Hutchison gave oral evidence to the Inquiry at the same time as his brother Mr Myles Hutchison, and they were both asked questions in relation to their written statements. In my response to Mr Myles Hutchison's statement (WITN3428026) I was able to give fuller response to his criticisms because his statement was accompanied by a larger number of copies of extracts from his medical records. My response to Mr Myles Hutchison gives examples of how both he and his parents were made aware about various aspects of hepatitis. This evidence therefore offers insight into what was likely to be known about hepatitis within the family.

In paragraph 10, Mr Paul Hutchison sets out that I told him I had known he had had non-A non-B hepatitis for years and that it had affected his liver. He also states he was not told about treatments available for hepatitis C and was provided with no information by me for a number of weeks after he was initially told of the infection.

- 5) This criticism is one I cannot respond to without seeing the original case notes. I do have sight of some correspondence produced by Mr Paul Hutchison with his witness statement. There is a letter dated November 1994 in which it is set out that treatment with Interferon was discussed with Mr Paul Hutchison (WITN2167004).
- 6) I cannot comment on when Mr Paul Hutchison was given the information about hepatitis C but the evidence provided by the correspondence indicates he was seen prior to November 1994 and there was ongoing consideration of hepatitis C and treatment for it.

In paragraph 11 Mr Paul Hutchison goes on to say that neither he nor his parents were given adequate information and that it was "bizarre" I knew he had hepatitis C long before he did.

- 7) I believe I gave Mr Paul Hutchison's adequate information as I set out in my letter of 18 November 1994 (WITN2168006, exhibit to the statement of Mr Myles Hutchison WITN2168001). I cannot comment on how long I knew Mr Paul Hutchison had hepatitis C prior to him being told as I do not have access to the original case notes. As I have outlined above Mr Myles Hutchison provided evidence along with his statement that I had met with both his parents in 1994, at their request for more information about both their sons. I explained about hepatitis

C and gave them copies of the Haemophilia Society leaflet on hepatitis and our local hepatitis C information sheet.

In paragraph 15, Mr Paul Hutchison comments that I referred to him as a “PUP”.

- 8) A PUP is a Previously Untreated Patient. These are patients who have never been treated with blood or a blood product, e.g. Factor IX concentrate in his case for haemophilia B. Mr Paul Hutchinson was initially treated in Leith Hospital as an infant aged 3 weeks. Therefore, after his initial treatment he would not be classified as a pup. He had clearly heard use of the term pup but it would not have applied to him in the 1980s or thereafter.

In paragraph 16 Mr Paul Hutchison recalls being called into a ward for a test which he says he was told was “for the future in terms of [his] factor treatment” but that he was given no further explanation and he developed rashes due to the testing.

- 9) I think Mr Paul Hutchison is remembering a skin testing investigation. This was a research investigation which was explained to patients in advance and their agreement sought. The technique was a simple way of assessing the overall activity of the immune system. The device consisted of 8 small feet each containing a different antigen (or an ‘inactive form of an infection’) and the device was placed on the forearm. Two days later the reaction in the skin was carefully measured to quantify the response. Attached is a photograph of the device and an example of the small skin reactions that might result. The study provided evidence that the immune system could be depressed by treatment of haemophilia and that this was related to the purity of the treatment. This evidence was part of the future justification for developing purer concentrates for treating haemophilia. I have supplied a short paper on the multi-test applicator referred to. (WITN3428043)

In paragraph 17 Mr Paul Hutchison recalls I informed him hepatitis C would lead to liver cancer and there was no treatment available at that time.

- 10) I have no recollection of the incident described and to be able to respond helpfully I would need to see the case notes. It is possible I said that hepatitis C could (rather than ‘would’) lead to cancer of the liver. There was potential treatment

available for both hepatitis C and liver cancer and I would have explained this. We can see from the correspondence produced that treatment was subsequently discussed several times.

- 11) I am pleased to see from the copies of correspondence that Mr Hutchison is hepatitis C PCR negative and therefore his appears to have cleared the virus. This will significantly have reduced his chance of having serious liver disease and of developing liver cancer.

In paragraph 19 Mr Paul Hutchison states he was tested without his parents' consent. He also refers to rumours that I have blood samples I still use for research purposes.

- 12) As I have set out above Mr Paul Hutchison's parent knew of the risk of hepatitis when he was a child and that we were monitoring all patients. We will have repeatedly explained why blood was being taken mostly at review clinics. A small amount of some samples will have been stored, as part of good laboratory practice and may have been used for further investigations. As I retired from the Royal Infirmary some time ago I do not know what samples may still be stored. I do not have access to these or to Mr Paul Hutchison's case notes. It is my understanding that for stored samples to be used in any way now or in the future, consent would be required.

- 13) It was well known to patients and parents that non-A non-B hepatitis affected many patients. In 1989 it became clear that non-A non-B hepatitis was characterised as hepatitis C. Hepatitis C was therefore not a new diagnosis but a different way of describing the same condition. Without the case notes it is difficult to respond more specifically.

In paragraph 20 Mr Paul Hutchison claims he never had an explicit explanation that samples were being taken and why. He also claims that large samples were taken regularly and 60ml syringes were used.

- 14) Those who took blood from Mr Paul Hutchison will have offered to explain why blood was being taken. I think it very unlikely that Mr Paul Hutchison had large samples of up to 60ml taken from him in circumstances where he suffered only

from hepatitis C. It is potentially quite difficult to withdraw 60 mls of blood using the small needles that were used to help preserve the veins.

In paragraph 21 Mr Paul Hutchison claims that his depression was made worse by my telling him he could die from hepatitis C when I first advised him he had hepatitis C.

15) Without having access to Mr Hutchison's medical case notes it is difficult to comment about the relationship between his depression and hepatitis C. I would not have portrayed the consequences of hepatitis C as described by Mr Hutchison.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed GRO-C

Dated 14/11/20