

Witness Name: Morag Kerr
Statement No.: WITN4189001
Dated:

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF MORAG KERR

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 30 April 2020.

I, Morag Kerr will say as follows: -

1. I write in relation to the oral evidence given by Jryna Batters on 31st October 2019 in which she spoke of matters involving Raigmore Hospital, Inverness. I have read the statement of Mrs Batters as well as the transcript of her oral evidence and it may assist the Inquiry if I explain my role and involvement in the Viral Hepatitis Service.
2. Dr Zentler-Munro was the Consultant Gastroenterologist in NHS Highland, who had for a number of years persevered in his attempts to highlight the issues and impact that the Hepatitis C virus would inevitably have on a person's health and indeed the Health Service. His efforts to improve the service provided by NHS Highland were successful and funding was secured to enable the delivery of a dedicated clinic for those who received a positive diagnosis of Hepatitis C. As a result of this funding, the role of HCV project nurse was created which I took up in 2000. Between 2000 and 2007 my hours gradually increased from an initial 3 hours per week to 6 hours.
3. In 2007, the Scottish Government launched the Scottish Hepatitis C Action Plan with the provision of funding to allow development of the specialist nursing role. I was successful in my application for the Liver Disease Specialist Nurse post — this being 0.5 Whole Time Equivalent ("WTE") general liver and 0.5 WTE viral hepatitis. It was at this time that clinics in the peripheral areas were beginning to develop. The area we cover within NHS Highland is a large geographical area and clinics were

ultimately set up within HMP Porterfield as well as in Thurso, Fort William, Portree, Broadford, Nairn and Invergordon. Although we supply a service to the Western Isles, we do not deliver clinics in this area, and Orkney falls under the care of NHS Grampian.

4. Due to the nature of our service we require to ask a number of highly sensitive questions which can sometimes be upsetting for the patient and this we always aim to do in a sensitive manner. Having worked with Dr Zentler-Munro for a number of years, I found him to be caring, compassionate and non-judgemental in his delivery of care.
5. I hope the above helps to provide clarification in the matter and would be happy to assist the Inquiry further if required.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed GRO-C

Dated 7/5/2020