

Witness Name: Elizabeth Helen Carroll  
Statement No.: WITN3078001  
Exhibits: WITN3078002 - WITN3078004  
Dated: 25 April 2019

**THE INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY**

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**EXHIBIT WITN3078003**

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On 22 Mar 2016, at 11:17, Liz Carroll <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Dear Matt and [REDACTED]

I have been contacted by our member Clair Walton and asked to forward this string of emails to you both.

As you can see Clair has been asking members of the MFT staff if the whole board unanimously voted for the decision not to engage with her further on the issue of her property. As she has been unable to get an answer she asked me to forward this to you both.

The specific question is asked right at the bottom of this email and says

Please could you confirm the named above are members of the board of trustees who unanimously agreed and are responsible for refusing to discuss the matter further

As this is not directly an issue relating to the Society I do not need to be involved in any correspondence, but am passing this email on to you as requested by our member.

Kind regards

Liz

**Liz Carroll**

**Chief Executive**

[The Haemophilia Society](#)

Tel: [REDACTED] Mob: [REDACTED]

Twitter: [REDACTED]

**The Haemophilia Society, Willcox House, 140 – 148 Borough High Street, London, SE1 1LB.**

Free helpline: [REDACTED] Admin: [REDACTED]

Email: [info@haemophilia.org.uk](mailto:info@haemophilia.org.uk)

Registered charity no. 288260 Registered charity in Scotland No. SCO39732

The information in this email is confidential and is intended solely for the addressee. Access, copying or re-use of information in it by anyone else is unauthorised. Any views or opinions presented are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the Haemophilia Society. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact me at the above address.

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**From:** CLAIR WALTON [[mailto:](#) **GRO-C**]  
**Sent:** 21 March 2016 20:46  
**To:** Liz Carroll <**GRO-C**>  
**Cc:** **GRO-C**  
**Subject:** Fwd: URGENT Fwd: Correspondence with Jane Ellison, MP - Parliamentary under Secretary of State for Public Health

Dear Liz

Please could you forward this email to the two Haemophilia Society appointed trustees on the board of The Macfarlane Trust (MFT).

In Jan Barlow's absence, and with no date of return, Head of Operations at MFT, Victoria Prouse, has been directed as primary contact.

As you can see Victoria is refusing to send correspondence addressed to the full board on to the individual trustees. Highly irregular - I am sure you will agree.

Kind regards  
Clair

cc Jane Ellison MP (post to HoC)  
Nadhim Zahawi MP (email)

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** CLAIR WALTON <**GRO-C**>  
**Date:** 21 March 2016 at 16:58:21 GMT  
**To:** "**GRO-C**" <**GRO-C**>  
**Cc:** "**GRO-C**" <**GRO-C**>  
          <**GRO-C**>  
**Subject:** URGENT Fwd: Correspondence with Jane Ellison, MP -  
Parliamentary under Secretary of State for Public Health

Dear Victoria

I am still waiting for a reply.

Please could you confirm, as a matter of urgency, that you have passed my email dated 15 March 2016 to the full board as requested.

It is almost six days since the email was sent and, so far, you have refused to send the email to the intended recipients. It is highly irregular to withhold correspondence. Please respect the Minister, Jane Ellison's advice and stop blocking the communication.

In the meantime, Office Manager, June Omadoye has confirmed that the Macfarlane Trust Website is up to date and the current board of trustees is:

**Roger Evans - Chairman**  
(Appointed by the board of the  
Macfarlane Trust)

**Eileen Jackman**  
(Appointed by the board of the  
Macfarlane Trust)

**Paul Biddle**  
(Appointed by the board of the  
Macfarlane Trust)

**Alasdair Murray**  
(Appointed by the board of the  
Macfarlane Trust)

**Matt Gregory**  
(Appointed by the Haemophilia  
Society)

GRO-A

(Appointed by the Haemophilia  
Society)

**Dr Vanessa Martlew - Medical  
Trustee**  
(Appointed by the Department of  
Health)

**Patrick Spellman**  
(Appointed by the Department of  
Health)

June would not, however, inform me when CEO, Jan Barlow would return.

Regards  
Clair Walton

cc Jane Ellison MP  
Nadhim Zahawi MP

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** CLAIR WALTON <GRO-C>  
**Date:** 18 March 2016 at 15:27:43 GMT  
**To:** Victoria Prouse <GRO-C>

Cc: "GRO-C" <GRO-C>  
Subject: Re: Correspondence with Jane Ellison, MP -  
Parliamentary under Secretary of State for Public Health

Dear Victoria

I am writing regarding our conversation this afternoon.

As you know I was quite perplexed to hear you had sent the email on to the 'relevant' people and are waiting before you could reply to me. Yet these 'relevant' people did not include the full board of trustees.

It is highly irregular to withhold correspondence - particularly when the correspondence is about the full board. You have been specifically requested to pass on the email to the full board.

Please assure me that you have now sent the full contents of my email dated 15 March 2016 to the intended recipients - that includes a copy to each member of the full board.

I look forward to hearing from you very soon.

Regards  
Clair

cc Jane Ellison MP  
Nadhim Zahawi MP

On 16 Mar 2016, at 14:06, Victoria Prouse

<GRO-C> wrote:

Dear Ms Walton,

I am writing to confirm receipt of both your emails, sent last night.

With regards  
Victoria

<image001.png>Victoria Prouse  
Director of Operations

Direct Dial: GRO-C

Email: GRO-C

 Consider the environment. Please don't print this e-mail unless you really need to.

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From: Clair Walton

[mailto: ] GRO-C

**Sent:** 15 March 2016 22:22

**To:** Victoria Prouse < GRO-C >

**Cc:** Nadhim ZAHAWI < GRO-C >

**Subject:** Fw: Correspondence with Jane Ellison, MP -  
Parliamentary under Secretary of State for Public  
Health

Dear Victoria

I have received an out of office message from Jan Barlow with no date for return. As advised by Jan, please could you pass the forwarded email below (of which you were copied into) to the each of the trustees on the full board in her absence and respond to my email as it is a matter of urgency.

Yours sincerely  
Clair Walton (Mrs)

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** Clair Walton < GRO-C >

**To:** Jan Barlow < GRO-C >

**Cc:** Nadhim ZAHAWI < GRO-C >

" GRO-C  
< GRO-C >

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 15, 2016 10:05 PM

**Subject:** Correspondence with Jane Ellison, MP -  
Parliamentary under Secretary of State for Public Health

Dear Jan

**Correspondence with Jane Ellison, MP - Parliamentary under  
Secretary of State for Public Health**

I am writing following recent correspondence on my behalf between my MP, Nadhim Zahawi and Jane Ellison, MP.

As you know, I am an HIV infected Primary Beneficiary. I am also the widow of a co-infected haemophiliac who died in 1993. It is three years since Nadhim Zahawi MP, first wrote to the Chair, Roger Evans, asking him to explain the origin and circumstances of the charge on my property, and requesting a meeting to discuss my current situation. The issue remains unresolved.

For the record: *The origins of the charge date back to 1990 when an equity charge was placed on our marital home when my husband, Bryan Walton, was dying of AIDS due to NHS contaminated blood. He died at the age of 34 making me a young widow at the age of 31. Both my late husband and I were contaminated with HIV and the Trust had a duty of care for two primary beneficiaries, not just one in this marriage.*



*This period was at the height of fear, stigma and discrimination surrounding AIDS. We had no where to go, no one to help, very few family or friends knew – such was the prevailing climate of fear and isolation. The Macfarlane Trust was the organisation set up specifically for support so we turned to it for help when we had financial difficulties due my husband's decreasing health. We were offered no other option by the Trust but for it to take away the mortgage and invest in our property - it was a case of take it or leave it. I questioned the legality and morality of 'investing' in, and 'profiting' from, the homes of the dying, at the time and since.*

As you know, Mr. Evans stated he could not explain the charge as he, nor current staff or trustees were around at the time and he did not have the data. Despite this admission, Mr. Evans refused to arrange a meeting to discuss the charge, and any further attempts by my MP to set up a meeting to find a way forward have been refused. Instead the Trust has responded with statements of 'facts' that are simply not true. Despite repeatedly repudiating the Trust's version of events, providing evidence to the contrary, and several offers to put the facts on the table in a meeting, the Trust has refused to engage in conversation in a face to face meeting - either with staff or members of the board.

Indeed, since my MP became involved, previous arrangements; where the charge was transferred from one property to another, allowing me at least the freedom to move home according to my needs, have been inexplicably stopped - a decision taken at a board meeting in November 2013. It makes no sense. One wonders why trustees would want to constrict the previously accepted freedom and make a situation worse for a bereaved Primary Beneficiary.

A recent attempt by Suzanne Lowe, Talk Mediation, to offer to mediate on the simple matter of transferring the charge from one property to another, was dismissed – shockingly, not directly from the Trust to whom the invitation was sent but via a letter from the Trust's solicitors, Wilsons, who were not party to the offer and should never have been involved.

Sadly, Jan, as CEO, you have not made yourself available to offer assistance, guidance or support on the matter – when I asked to meet you stated you do not have permission from the Board. This also makes no sense.

We have kept the Minister, Jane Ellison MP, informed of the ongoing situation over the years, and in her latest letter to Nadhim, dated 2 March 2016 she recommends;

*"Ms. Walton continues her dialogue with the Trust and make clear why she disagrees with the Trust's response."*

You have to agree Jan that it is not possible for me or my MP to continue dialogue if the Trustees will not allow a meeting and are refusing to communicate further on the matter - despite the recent offer of mediation.

Jan, will you respect the Minister's advice and arrange a

meeting with me and my MP, Nadhim Zahawi, so a fair, transparent and meaningful dialogue can finally begin?

According to your website the current board of trustees are:

**Roger Evans** - Chairman

(Appointed by the board of the Macfarlane Trust)

**Eileen Jackman**

(Appointed by the board of the Macfarlane Trust)

**Paul Biddle**

(Appointed by the board of the Macfarlane Trust)

**Alasdair Murray**

(Appointed by the board of the Macfarlane Trust)

**Matt Gregory**

(Appointed by the Haemophilia Society)

**GRO-A**

(Appointed by the Haemophilia Society)

**Dr Vanessa Martlew** - Medical Trustee

(Appointed by the Department of Health)

**Patrick Spellman**

(Appointed by the Department of Health)

Please could you confirm the named above are members of the board of trustees who unanimously agreed and are responsible for refusing to discuss the matter further? If not, please confirm the correct list of trustees.

I sincerely hope you, as CEO, and the current board of trustees (if this has altered in anyway) follow the Minister's advice; reconsider their resistance to communication and agree to arrange a meeting soon.

Given the urgent need to respond to the public consultation about the current schemes a reply by return would be very much appreciated.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Clair Walton (Mrs)

cc

Jane Ellison, MP - Parliamentary under Secretary of State for Public Health

via post to

Richmond House

79 Whitehall

London

SW1A 2NS

Nadhim Zahawi, MP via email

MFT Full Board of Trustees via Jan Barlow

Victoria Prouse

Head of Operations MFT



via email