

Witness Name: Susan Elizabeth Threakall

Statement No: WITN1564022

Exhibits: WITN1564023-WITN1564045

Dated: May 2020

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

EXHIBIT WITN1564025

GRO-C

Devon,

GRO-C

31st January 2009

Rt Hon the Lord Fowler
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

Dear Lord Fowler,

I don't know if you will remember me or not, but I am the widow of Bob Threakall, a haemophiliac, who died in 1991 as a result of receiving contaminated NHS blood products. At the time of his infection we were living in GRO-C and you were the Member of Parliament for GRO-C. GRO-C We made contact with you at the time and, of course, with Robin Corbett, our own MP, who is now Lord Corbett of Castle Vale.

I recall that you were very supportive of our campaign for justice, and that several times you were quoted in the Sutton Coldfield News, including, if I recall correctly, following Bob's death in 1991. I understand that you were appointed as a Trustee of the Terrance Higgins Trust in 2004, so you have obviously continued to work in this field! I'm sure you will be delighted to know that your successor in Sutton Coldfield; Andrew Mitchell, MP, has continued in your footsteps and is currently working on behalf of my son, David (Bob's youngest son), who lives in his constituency. My late father, who at one stage was Chairman of Erdington Conservative Club would have been so pleased with all this support!

I was always most grateful for the support we had from you and Robin – who incidentally has stayed in touch! Since Bob's death I have continued to campaign and am presently secretary of the group called TaintedBlood. You may have heard of us and know that we campaign and advocate on behalf of all those affected and infected by blood and blood products, in particular haemophiliacs, who make up a substantial number of our mandated members.

I wonder if, in light of your previous support, you would consider helping me again? Firstly, on or around the 12th of February we are expecting that a debate will be held in the House of Lords as a result of a request by Lord Morris of Manchester. The purpose of the debate is to try and obtain the government's response to the result of the public inquiry that has been chaired by Lord Archer of Sandwell. We do not yet have a date for the release of the report but assume it will be before the debate is held. I wonder if you would consider attending the debate and adding your support to that of Lords Archer, Morris and Corbett?

The other way you may be able to help is in possibly helping us with some details about an entry on TaintedBlood's timeline? I enclose a copy of the letter, dated 16th July, 1982 and wondered if you could take a close look at it for us? We are very keen to find out who wrote the letter and to whom. We thought that this could perhaps be worked out by someone like yourself who may recall the departmental codes, room numbers, etc on the letter?

Any help you feel able to offer us would be very much appreciated at what, for us, is a crucial time. You may be interested to discuss the issues involved with Lords Archer and Morris, who have worked tirelessly to help us bring about an end to almost a quarter of a century of campaigning.

Finally, I hope that you and your family are well. You were much missed when you left GRO-C. GRO-C though I do know that your successor continued to support us, as my son lives there and has contacted him on more than one occasion!

Very Best Wishes,

Sue Threakall