

Witness Name: Susan Elizabeth Threakall

Statement No: WITN1564022

Exhibits: WITN1564023-WITN1564045

Dated: May 2020

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

EXHIBIT WITN1564027

GRO-C

Devon

GRO-C

4th March, 2010

Gillian Merron MP
Minister of State, Public Health
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear Ms Merron,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Committee of TaintedBlood, the group that campaigns and advocates on behalf of all those infected and affected by contaminated blood and blood products. Please note that since we are all volunteers I am using my home address for ease of communication.

As you will know, the last few weeks have been very difficult for campaigners, particularly those of our group who are very sick. To first have our hopes raised by the speed at which Lord Morris's Contaminated Blood (Support for Infected & Bereaved Persons) Bill went through the House of Lords, only to see it consistently blocked in the House of Commons, has been a real setback for many. To know that Government Whips were acting on the instructions of Government Ministers, the Treasury or the Prime minister himself has not helped.

We were therefore pleased to learn that you have agreed to meet with Lord Morris to discuss a way forward. We were even more delighted tonight to find out from Yvette Cooper, MP that you intend to '...meet with the key campaigners for the Bill to discuss what further could be done to help...' This is good news indeed, and we thank you for your foresight. As you may know, TaintedBlood have been the largest and most focused campaign group in the country since its formation over four years ago. Although run solely by volunteers we have between us a wealth of knowledge and campaigning history. Several of the committee have been actively involved in campaign work since the early 1980s. Although the committee are all a part of the haemophilia community, we not only represent every part of this but we also have an extensive knowledge of related issues. Most of us gave evidence at Lord Archer's Independent Inquiry and subsequently we have worked closely with Lord Morris to see its recommendations implemented. We also liaise regularly with the Haemophilia Society and one of our committee is also a Trustee of that organisation. We are used to working with Lord Morris and the Society to achieve a common goal.

I am sure you will therefore agree that we fit with ease into the category of 'key campaigners' and hope that you will be happy to include one or more of us in the meeting.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Sue Threakall
Secretary, TaintedBlood
www.tainedblood.info