

Witness Name: Gaynor Lewis

Statement No: WITN2368019

Exhibits: WITN2368020-

WITN2368051

Dated: 4 December 2020

**INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY**

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**EXHIBIT WITN2368022**

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## **National Birchgrove Steering Group**

Minutes of meeting 9<sup>th</sup> August 2000

Apologies: **GRO-A** P Hooper

Present: R James  
**GRO-A**  
A Burgess  
M Price  
G Lewis

### **1 MFT Partnership Reorganisation**

It was discussed that by reorganizing many of us would lose our places on the new partnership group and our voice.

We looked at ways of maintaining a presence within the group and also questioned our effectiveness as a voice on the group.

The terms of reference dictated by the MFT was questioned and we decided that we would feel more comfortable if the words "and influence policy making decisions" was added.

It was also agreed that the direction had come from the MFT trustees and not the users/registrants involved.

We would also ask for Regional representation from Scotland Wales and N Ireland. The issue of a Haemophilia Society trustee on board would also be raised at the MFT meeting.

### **2 Charitable Status**

It was agreed unanimously to apply for charitable status and ensure that Birchgrove became independent as an organization.

G Lewis was in the process of applying for a charity number and funding bids are in place.

There are some legal technicalities to amend and The Memorandum and Articles of Association to include definition of CJD as a pathogen as opposed to a virus and to include all viruses and pathogens.

This will be checked by our legal adviser Mr G De'ath.

### **3 User Representation on the board of MFT Trustees**

There have been changes this year regarding user representation by the Charities Commission and "express permission" by the charities commission is all that is needed by the Haemophilia Society to appoint registrants as trustees.

**GRO-A** explained that the Haemophilia Society had written to the CC asking for that express permission. The Society are awaiting a response.

It was raised whether there was a Trustees job description and whether the MFT Trustees should be appointed democratically as are the H/Socs. Trustees.

It would be raised at the MFT meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2000.

### **4 Campaign**

It was agreed everyone was in support of the current campaign and that we would wait for an update on 10<sup>th</sup> with members of the 2/2 campaign and Haemophila North.

It was decided that the most important aspect was calling for a Public Inquiry within the Haemophilia Societies current HCV survey. Asking for a 3year top up grants for HIV survivors, to oppose the legal "undertaking" and to insist on a Public Inquiry into blood poisoning and infection within their questionnaire.

### **5 Newsletter**

As the volume of work within the Newsletter has increased and also diversified it was agreed to produce in house publications to meet the deadlines and current political activity. The contract with the printers will be cancelled and future publications will hopefully be as follows:

(a) A Campaign Edition This will only be on Campaign material only and can be produced and printed in response to the campaigns direction.

(b) Birchgrove Update General topics and information, articles, readers letters etc

(c) Special Editions These can be produced as and when there is a need such as a Montreal update, Conferences etc

These will be on 2 x A3 sheets folded and produced in the office.

### **6 Woodland**

As this has been a topical issue recently as Babs has had calls from members and so has the Birchgrove office it was agreed that **GRO-A** would write a piece in the newsletter and also visit the wood in the near future.

It was stated that Birchgrove have met fully all its obligations regarding the wood in that there have been 1200 trees planted, in the shape of a ribbon and that it is being managed

by the Woodland Trust. The rest is up to nature and the saplings will look like a wood in 40 years time.

The woodland trust will be contacted and it will be investigated as to whether there are any funds available or if the woodland trust have access to funding for memorial plaques on their land.

#### **7 Appointment for Birchgrove secretary**

It was agreed that due to the increased workload in the office more support was needed and the appointment of a secretary was necessary to meet this workload. It was proposed and seconded that GRO-A would take this post.

#### **8 AOB**