

Witness Name: Lynne Kelly

Statement No: WITN3988001

Exhibits: WITN3988002-WITN3988093

Dated: 30 July 2020

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**EXHIBIT WITN3988053**

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### Meeting with Baroness Featherstone and Lynne Kelly

(Additions in red by Lynne Kelly )

Tuesday 20 June 2017 16.30-17.00

Location: DH, Richmond House, Whitehall

Attendees (DH): Sir Chris Wormald, Kate Tilley, Natalie Kempston

Attendees (external): Baroness Featherstone, Lynne Kelly, Chair of Haemophilia Wales

The meeting followed an exchange of letters between Chris Wormald and Baroness Featherstone, who outlined that her overarching objective is working towards a public Inquiry, which up until now has been refused. However, the purpose of this particular meeting was to discuss instances where they feel that DH officials have provided misleading or inaccurate information, to both the public and ministers and to present the evidence they have to support this.

Both Baroness Featherstone and Ms Kelly talked through their past engagement with the Department over the period 2010-2017 where errors and inaccuracies in the core information relating to the Contaminated Blood scandal were relayed to Department officials. They presented their concerns about the inaccuracy of the DH report "Self-Sufficiency in Blood Products in England and Wales" published in 2006. They understand that as the only document produced by the Department of Health which purports to set out the 'facts' relating to the supply of blood products in the UK during the period in which the blood supplies were contaminated, it is de facto the briefing document which informs Parliamentary debate and has become the principle point of reference for Ministers, MP's and Department Officials. Baroness Featherstone and Ms Kelly went on to outline the gaps, omissions, and inaccuracies, presenting several pieces of evidence to support their claims, including a letter from Lord Owen (a former Health Minister), which contains an alternative timeline that highlights events that are missing from the timeline in the DH report.

Haemophilia Alliance meetings were also discussed where financial support was omitted from the "Terms of Reference" of the meetings contrary to the recommendations of the Archer Inquiry ..... Baroness Featherstone and Ms Kelly said that inaccurate/incomplete minutes were disseminated from these meetings, and that attendees were often not informed of meetings and felt no progress was made from one meeting to the next.

Lynne Kelly spoke about her interactions with the Department, including with Rowena Jecock, a DH official, who was co chair of the meetings to discuss contaminated blood. We were told of several instances where Ms Jecock said things that Baroness Featherstone and Lynne Kelly believed to be incorrect. Again, they shared several pieces of evidence to support their claims, which Chris Wormald reassured that the Department would look into and investigate.

Chris Wormald stated we will need to look at all the evidence supplied during this meeting, and then come back with the Department's position on all of the issues presented. He highlighted that we have to separate whether officials were defending government policy, or whether they had breached the Civil Service Code and had been misleading.

**Action:** DH to look at 2006 report, "Self-Sufficiency in Blood Products in England and Wales", together with all the evidence presented today, and investigate for any inaccuracies and omissions.

Chris Wormald noted that his father, Peter Wormald, was an official in the Department for some of the time period in question. Chris has checked with his father who has no recollection of being involved in these issues, and there is no evidence from any of the records we have come across that he is. Chris reiterated that if any suggestions arise from the record that his father had been involved, then he would declare this area as a conflict of interest and absent himself from any decisions on historical Infected Blood issues.

For information, subsequent checking has confirmed that both officials mentioned over the course of the meeting, Rowena Jecock and Ben Cole, have both left the Department of Health. The best person to contact now would be Donna McInnes, who can be reached at [Donna.McInnes@GRO-C](mailto:Donna.McInnes@GRO-C)

The following evidence was left with Chris Wormwald

Self Sufficiency in Blood Products 1973 -1991

Lord Owen submission to the Archer Inquiry (with covering emails from Lord Owen to Lynne Kelly)

Lord Patrick Jenkin of Roding : Lords Hansard 19<sup>th</sup> April 2006 and 24<sup>th</sup> April 2006 Contaminated Blood Debate. (with covering emails from Lord Jenkin to Lynne Kelly)

Justice Holman 16<sup>th</sup> April 2010/Lord Alf Morris of Manchester, Contaminated Blood Debate 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2010

Blood Transfusions for Clinicians : John Wallace 1977

Garrott Allen letter January 6<sup>th</sup> 1975

Diana Walford letter 15<sup>th</sup> September 1980