

Witness Name: Dr Maurice Strevens

Statement No.: WITN3808008

Exhibits: None

Dated: 24<sup>th</sup> July 2022

## INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

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### WRITTEN STATEMENT OF DR MAURICE STREVENIS

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I provide this statement in response to the request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 01 February 2022.

I, Dr Maurice Strevens, will say as follows: -

#### Section 1: Introduction

1.1. My name is Maurice John Strevens. My address is GRO-C  
GRO-C Warks, GRO-C My date of birth is GRO-C 1945. My qualifications are MB BCh (Wales) FRCP FRCPath. My employment history is as follows.

1.2. Pre-registration Medical House Officer  
Bridgend General Hospital  
South Wales  
August 1969 - January 1970

1.3. Pre-registration Surgical House Officer  
Cardiff Royal Infirmary  
South Wales  
February 1970 - July 1970

- 1.4. In relation to the above roles. Pre-registration jobs are designed to give basic experience in general medicine and surgery and if completed successfully leads to entry on the GMC register.
- 1.5. Senior Medical HO  
Sully Hospital  
South Wales  
August 1970 - July 1971
- 1.6. Senior Medical HO  
Bridgend General Hospital  
South Wales  
August 1971 - July 1972
- 1.7. Registrar in General Medicine  
Portsmouth Royal Infirmary  
Hampshire  
August 1972 – July 1974
- 1.8. The above posts gave experience in a range of medical disciplines and teaching towards gaining membership of the Royal College of Physicians. I achieved this while working in Portsmouth.
- 1.9. Specialist Registrar in Haematology  
Aberdeen Royal Infirmary  
Aberdeenshire  
July 1974 - November 1975
- 1.10. The above was my first post in haematology. A lot of the time was spent in the haematology laboratory where I was introduced to microscopy of both blood films and bone marrows, the techniques of measurement in the general lab., techniques in coagulation and blood transfusion. The training was aimed at eventually passing the exams required to become a member of the Royal College of Pathologists.
- 1.11. Senior Registrar in Haematology  
Sheffield Hospitals (Royal Infirmary, Hallamshire Hospital, Sheffield Children's Hospital) and The Sheffield Blood Transfusion Centre

November 1975 - November 1979

- 1.12. In relation to the above. I continued my training in both laboratory and clinical haematology. This included training and experience in the treatment of bleeding disorders. Sheffield was a Haemophilia centre for both adults and a separate unit for children at the Children's Hospital. I spent more time than was usual for senior registrars at the Children's Hospital because of personal interests. There was a lot of research taking place into bleeding disorders in Sheffield at that time. Professor Preston was particularly interested in liver disease associated with NonA NonB hepatitis in Haemophiliacs.
- 1.13. I spent 6 months in residence at the Sheffield transfusion centre. This gave me valuable insight into the workings of a regional transfusion centre. This included my attendance as a medical officer at large donation sessions. I learnt about the careful selection process of blood donors and the belief that blood from unpaid regular volunteers was inherently safer than the American system of paying blood donors. Although both the UK and the USA tested blood for known blood borne pathogens, in the United Kingdom there was concern about pathogens which at that time could not be defined.
- 1.14. In 1979 I took and passed the final exam and became a member of the Royal College of Pathologists.
- 1.15. Notes on Haematology Training:
  - 1.15.1. In 1969 there was no clinical haematology service at Bridgend General Hospital. The haematology laboratory was led by a general pathologist who just happened to have an interest in clinical haematology. In spite of this I still found myself involved in the treatment of patients with leukaemia and lymphoma in a general medicine setting.
  - 1.15.2. In the 1960s a group of senior haematologists from various backgrounds felt that haematology services in the UK should be provided by doctors rigorously trained in all aspects of both clinical and laboratory haematology. At the end of the training there was an exam leading to membership of the Royal College of Pathologists. One had to pass in all areas of haematology - membership of the college is an essential qualification for any consultant haematologist. At the time

the combination of both laboratory and clinical skill in one doctor was very different to the splitting of the two discipline which occurred in most other countries

1.16. Consultant Haematologist for the Coventry hospitals (Various hospitals around Coventry including the Coventry and Warwickshire hospital and the Walsgrave Hospital)

December 1979 - June 2005

For a more detailed history of my career, please refer to my witness statement WITN3808005.

## **Section 2: Responses to criticism(s) by W1389**

2.1. *Section 2 10.*

For clarification the consultant haematologists working in Coventry at that time were:

Dr Keith Shinton

Dr Paula Cotter (? referred to as Cotterill)

Dr Maurice Strevens (From 1979)

The other doctors referred to were junior doctors.

2.2. *Section 2 20.*

I have responded to this in my statement WITN3808006 (response to para 23 of witness statement WITN2815). Witness W1389's account appears to be a repetition of his parents' accounts of this consultation.

At paragraph 18 of his statement witness W1389 states that his parents were informed of his HIV status by staff at Coventry and Warwickshire hospital around 1986 but he gives no further details and this account, that his parents were informed of his HIV status by staff at Coventry and Warwickshire hospital around 1986, does not feature in his parents' statements.

## **Section 3: Other Issues**

3.1. There are no other issues that I wish to raise at this time.

**Statement of Truth**

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

GRO-C

Dated \_\_\_\_\_

24<sup>th</sup> July 2022