

Witness Name: David Leadbetter

Statement No.: WITN7765001

Exhibits: WITN7765002 &

WITN7765003

Dated: 29/04/2025

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

EXHIBIT WITN7765003

Dear (MP Name / Contact name),

(Tell them how this has affected you personally, and how you feel IBCA and Government are failing you. Then finish it with the following points that were raised in the inquiry).

I would like to bring to your attention the following points raised by Sir Brian Langstaff, Chair of the Infected Blood Inquiry, that I feel have been ignored by Government. It is my belief that the Cabinet Office and IBCA have decided to merge mono haemophiliacs with whole blood transfusion victims. This is clearly a financial decision and it means that the additional hardships haemophiliacs have faced over decades is going unrecognised.

The inquiry report in May 2024, clearly stated that Infections, leading to deaths, illness and suffering were caused needlessly to people with bleeding disorders by:-

- Failing in the licensing regime - in particular (but not only) by allowing the importation and distribution from 1973 of blood products (Factor 8 concentrates) made in the US or Austria which carried a high risk of causing hepatitis, and were understood to be less safe than current domestic treatments for bleeding disorders.
- Using imported high risk blood products.
- Failure to achieve self sufficiency in the UK.
- Increasing size of pools to manufacture factor 8 although it was well known this would markedly increase viral transmission risk.
- Failing to finance research of viral inactivation of factor concentrates.
- Failing to have careful and rigorous donor selection/screening collecting blood from prisons.
- Adopting an attitude of denial towards risks of factor concentrates.
- Treating with ever increasing volumes of concentrate despite the risk.
- Failing to respond to serious risks of infection by making treatment adjustments such as using Cryoprecipitate or DDAVP instead of Factor concentrates, and for example avoiding prophylactic treatment altogether.
- Treating children with multiple, riskier commercial concentrates prophylactically as objects for research rather than using safer treatments.
- Falsely reassuring the public victims that non A non B (hepatitis C) was relatively harmless and inconsequential.
- Taking the decision in July 1983 not to suspend the continued importation of commercially produced blood products.
- Failing to explain the risk of Factor concentrates and not discussing available alternative treatments. Thus treating us without informed consent.
- Conducting research on us without telling us or our parents beforehand, or informing us of risks and whether the research would enhance our treatment or benefit others. Again, this research was carried out without obtaining proper informed consent and occurred nationwide.
- Failing to tell us we were infected (HCV and HBV) and denying us the opportunity to control the progression of our own illnesses more effectively and prevent the spread of infection to our loved ones.

Regards.