

Witness Name: Chris Jones  
Statement No.: WITN4065025

Exhibits: WITN4065024

Dated: 09/02/2024

## INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

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### SUPPLEMENTAL STATEMENT OF PROFESSOR CHRIS JONES

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I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 Request of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 22 December 2023.

I, Professor Chris Jones, will say as follows: -

**Please provide the Inquiry with an update in regards:**

**a. to what steps have been taken (since your last correspondence with the Inquiry) in Wales to provide access to HCV screening and treatment;**

1. Following the witness statement of Vaughn Gething, the then Minister for Health and Social Services [WITN5565001] and my witness statement and update [WITN4065001 & WITN4065009], the Welsh Government has more broadly restated its commitment to eliminate hepatitis B and C through the publication of a Welsh Health Circular [WITN4065024] in January 2023, which provides details of how we expect health boards to work towards elimination of this public threat.

2. In addition, a Welsh Government led Oversight Group has been established to oversee progress towards elimination. All 7 Health Boards have now developed detailed Joint Recovery Plans in consultation with both their Substance Misuse Area Planning Boards and with Public Health Wales. In addition to the range of actions being undertaken at a local level, the Oversight Group is in the process of agreeing a workplan to look at issues requiring a national focus. This workplan will cover issues such as awareness raising, training, and improving access to testing across a range of platforms and settings. Progress towards elimination will be reported on annually to the Oversight Group based on a monitoring tool to be used by the health boards.

- b. what steps have been taken to locate those who may have been infected with HCV but are undiagnosed, in particular:**
- i. Women born between 1945 and 1964 who received a blood transfusion in childbirth;**
  - ii. Men and women born between 1975 and 1984 who received a transfusion in childhood;**
  - and iii. Men and women born between 1965 and 1974 who received a transfusion as a child or young adult (as identified in the the Expert Report to the Infected Blood Inquiry on Hepatitis [EXPG0000132] on page 9);**

3. My response remains the same as that given by Vaughan Gething, the then Minister for Health and Social Services [WITN5565001]. No further lookback study has been undertaken since the one described in that statement. Should the Infected Blood Inquiry (IBI) recommend a further lookback we will work with the advisory committee for the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs (SaBTO) and our 4 nations colleagues on a coordinated approach.

**Statement of Truth**

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

Signed 

Dated 9 February 2024

**Table of exhibits:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Notes/ Description Exhibit number</b>
<b>WITN4065024 January 2023</b>	<b>WHC/2023/001 – Eliminating hepatitis B and C as a public health threat in Wales – Action 2022-23 and 2023-24</b>