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19 June 2020

GRO-D
Infected Blood Inquiry

Sent via email **GRO-C**

Dear **GRO-D**

Re: Notification to Organisations of Significant Criticism

Thank you for your letter of 27 May 2020 offering the Trust the opportunity to respond to criticisms set out in the attached statement of the witness, relating to the administration of infected Factor VIII concentrate and subsequent diagnosis and treatment of the witness's son's with HIV.

The Trust understands the importance of the work of the Inquiry and we are keen to assist if we can, in fulfilling its Terms of Reference. We have reviewed the witness evidence with very deep concern and sympathy for the witness and her son and have decided that, unless further criticisms are made, we do not wish to make a formal response in evidence. The events described took place many years ago and I do not think that we will be able to trace the relevant individuals, or if we could that they would now be able to remember anything that is not in the records.

I do though very much hope that the Inquiry will be able to answer the questions and the wider points the witness has raised.

I would also like to offer my apologies both personally and behalf of the Trust for the way in which the witness and her son were treated in relation to his diagnosis with HIV. She should not have been advised of this by telephone and her young son most certainly should not have received such life-changing information indirectly by hearing nurses talking about it when he was being taken down for emergency surgery. I am truly and deeply sorry for the insensitivity shown in the care provided by the Trust as well as in relation to the witness's decision to seek further treatment for her son in London. Thankfully those doctors were proved wrong and the witness's son survived, no doubt in very large part due to her determination to do her best for him against all the odds and her immense dedication to his care.

I hope that the experience would be very different today and that the Trust and society as a whole have moved on from the inappropriate and unkind treatment described. This distressing account reminds all of us involved in the delivery of healthcare never to lose sight of the suffering of those we are trying to help and of common humanity.

I would be happy for this letter to be sent to the witness, or treated as an open letter; or if the witness preferred, to write to her and to her son personally, if appropriate, to apologise on behalf of the Trust.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond.

Yours sincerely

GRO-C

Gavin Boyle
Chief Executive