

Witness Name: Elizabeth Helen Carroll
Statement No.: WITN3078009
Exhibits: WITN3078010 - WITN3078031
Dated: 21 September 2020

THE INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

EXHIBIT WITN3078020

Burke, Kirstyn

From: Alan Burgess <stansboy@GRO-C>
Sent: 28 February 2015 10:42
To: GRO-D Liz Carroll
Cc: bernardmanson@GRO-C; simon.mower@GRO-C; GRO-D
GRO-D bill.payne@GRO-C; GRO-D
GRO-D; kate.khair@GRO-C; GRO-D
Subject: RE: Private & Confidential: The Incorporated Trustees of the Macfarlane Trust, Roger Evans & Jan Barlow

Thanks for that GRO-D

Date: Sat, 28 Feb 2015 04:25:58 -0500
From: GRO-D
To: stansboy@GRO-C; liz@GRO-C; GRO-D
CC: bernardmanson@GRO-C; simon.mower@GRO-C; GRO-D
bill.payne@GRO-C; GRO-D; GRO-D;
kate.khair@GRO-C; GRO-D
Subject: Re: Private & Confidential: The Incorporated Trustees of the Macfarlane Trust, Roger Evans & Jan Barlow

A very brave stance Alan and having read your statements I can only begin to imagine how incredibly difficult they must have been to write. Lest we forget the human cost in this tragedy.

-----Original Message-----

From: Alan Burgess <stansboy@GRO-C>
To: Liz Carroll <liz@GRO-C> GRO-D
CC: bernardmanson <bernardmanson@GRO-C>; simon.mower <simon.mower@GRO-C>
GRO-D; bill.payne <bill.payne@GRO-C> GRO-D
<GRO-D>; kate.khair <kate.khair@GRO-C> GRO-D
Sent: Fri, 27 Feb 2015 20:58
Subject: RE: Private & Confidential: The Incorporated Trustees of the Macfarlane Trust, Roger Evans & Jan Barlow

Hi

You are probably getting fed up with my emails now so I will keep this brief and its the last you will here from me today!

I am pleased so far Liz has stuck to the truth and hope and pray, tomorrow comes and goes with no retraction.

I am emailing because members of the board may feel that I am not in Liz's position , so perhaps I should not comment,however after talking to my wife she reminded me of this,,

In December I was contacted by Liz and she told me the APPG were looking for someone who would go on record to give a statement regarding the problems regarding being a Trustee at the Macfarlane Trust. Liz explained that GRO-D has told of his problems, and she also knew of mine and perhaps together we would be prepared to put it on record what those problems were.

I agreed to go on record with my experiences and accusations, but can only assume that GRO-D didn't want to do this, as on the day of the launch of the findings of the APPG along with results of the survey, I was the only one prepared to give a statement to MPs and members of the public at the meeting in parliament.

I gave this statement in the knowledge that I was going to name both Roger Evans and Jan Barlow ,and that some of my statement was based on comments that were the spoken word, I was prepared that they might take legal action

with regard to these comments, as I had read the statement in a public forum. I have since repeated my statement to a social media site, so it really is now in the public domain.

Up to the present time they have not taken any action on my statement, although I am well aware that they still have another eleven months in which to do so.

The point I am getting at, is even if Barlow and Evans plus Trustees of MFT, threatened legal action I will not deviate from what I know is the truth, and I would be prepared to take this all the way. as I made my statement in the knowledge it is the Truth and the Truth needed to be told in the interest of so many people.

I have been raised to believe that if you tell the truth nothing else matters, and you can hold your head up with a clear conscious, as truth is the power of everything.

Alan

From: liz@GRO-C
To: stansboy@GRO-C; GRO-D
CC: bernardmanson@GRO-C; simon.mower@GRO-C; GRO-D
bill.payne@GRO-C; GRO-D; GRO-D; kate.khair@GRO-C
GRO-D
Subject: RE: Private & Confidential: The Incorporated Trustees of the Macfarlane Trust, Roger Evans & Jan Barlow
Date: Fri, 27 Feb 2015 09:04:19 +0000

Thank you for your emails, I do understand what you are saying and I know what I heard.

I have asked the Barrister if she would be free to talk again. She did as asked by me, there are options, and she says we have a good case on some points and not on others if it went to court. I don't know what weight other evidence has in a libel case, if it is just this statement and nothing else (previous behaviour) taken into account.

We won't do anything else yet.

Liz

Liz Carroll

Chief Executive

The Haemophilia Society

Tel: [GRO-C](tel:GRO-C); Mob: [GRO-C](tel:GRO-C)

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From: Alan Burgess [mailto:stansboy@GRO-C]

Sent: 27 February 2015 02:57

To: GRO-D; Liz Carroll

Cc: bernardmanson@GRO-C; simon.mower@GRO-C; GRO-D

Subject: RE: Private & Confidential: The Incorporated Trustees of the Macfarlane Trust, Roger Evans & Jan Barlow

Liz,

I can only strongly agree with GRO-D I am so worried for you that if you issue a statement that contradicts what you heard it could be damaging to yourself and knowing this pair as I do they would not stop there.

I Urge you and Bernard to look at the facts of the case in that,,,

- 1) You heard what you did, and nothing changes the fact that it was what Jan Barlow said.
- 2) Your accusation was certainly not false and with malice and I implore most strongly Liz ,not to agree with that statement as you know its not the truth.
- 3)The Haemophilia Society and Liz has the support of over 1600 people who showed their support on tainted blood face book page.Jan Barlow and Roger Evans had none.
- 4) Surely any solicitor worth his weight, could pull so many holes in the letter that was produced by MFT solicitors, and the following are good examples from the letter,,,

"The MFT has an outstanding reputation in the Charitable Sector" ,,,WRONG ! As recently as January 15th 2015 in the Contaminated Blood debate these comments were made about The Macfarlane Trust and Caxton Foundation,,

Nadhim Zahawi (Stratford-on-Avon) (Con): On the point about the support mechanism, does my right hon. Friend agree that it is unacceptable that the very organisations that were set up to support individuals, such as the MacFarlane Trust, do not treat beneficiaries equitably? My constituent who went to the trust and questioned the response times was branded a troublemaker and her applications for grants were either delayed or, in some cases, frustrated completely. That is the reality on the ground. Will he say something about some of those organisations?

Alistair Burt: My hon. Friend is right that many beneficiaries have expressed deep concern about the workings of the trust. The all-party group report that came out yesterday will be addressed by other colleagues. On the MacFarlane Trust in particular he should know that I share his concerns. I do not believe that that trust is salvageable or saveable, and I will speak about that later.

Alistair Burt: I personally think that it is. That process will be informed by what the all-party group has spoken of, and its members will speak today. I thank the hon. Gentleman for his intervention. As I said to my hon. Friend the Member for Stratford-on-Avon, I am not sure that I fully share the conclusions of the all-party group's report with regard to the MacFarlane Trust. There is a great deal of detail in the report. As I was not responsible for compiling it, I can be lavish in my praise of the effort that went into it. A lot of hard work was done by a lot of people connected with the offices of the hon. Member for Kingston upon Hull North and my hon. Friend the Member for Colne Valley, and I am grateful for that. On the basis of information contained in the report and other information that we have, I do not believe that the MacFarlane Trust is saveable or capable of reform. I and others have seen a copy of a letter to the Secretary of State from two former trustees that is quite damning of its leadership, and one from some 68 beneficiaries that is equally uncompromising. It would be unfair to go into more detail now. It may be that the trust has an impossible role. However, there should be no doubt that a body set up to support beneficiaries and those who have been victims of what happened is anything other than on their side—not an arm of Government, nor seen to be, and prepared to take on the Government to argue for the funds it needs without fearing a conflict of interest. The Department of Health has contributed to the situation by structuring too cosy a relationship, possibly in its own interests, and that has to stop.

Caroline Dinanage (Gosport) (Con): My right hon. Friend has worked very hard on this issue, as has the all-party group on haemophilia and contaminated blood. I attended a public meeting yesterday with survivors and their families, and there was a very strong feeling that they have just had enough. They have been through a series of betrayals and disappointments at the hands of those who were supposed to help them, including trusts, departments and the Government. Does my right hon. Friend agree that this is our last chance to get this right for those people who have to suffer so very much?

Diana Johnson (Kingston upon Hull North) (Lab)The substantive report would simply not have been possible without those submissions. They are quoted throughout the report and highlight in vivid detail how the current system of support is not fit for purpose. Our report is clear that there needs to be dramatic change to the level of support people get, and the way in which it is managed, before we can even hope to achieve closure for these people. Needless to say, my biggest thanks go out to the whole community of people who have been affected by this tragedy.

In addition, I thank YouGov and the hon. Member for Stratford-on-Avon (Nadhim Zahawi), who generously helped put together the survey; the Haemophilia Society, which provides the all-party group's secretariat, and particularly its chief executive, Liz Carroll.

Kerry McCarthy (Bristol East) (Lab): I congratulate my hon. Friend and other Members involved in producing this excellent report. One of my constituents affected, Councillor Bill Payne, has praised the report. On her point about the piecemeal nature of the support available, I must say that I was really struck by that when I read the report. It is difficult enough to deal with the health care system and the welfare system without the additional burden of bureaucracy, and it seems that some of the organisations involved are not very good at responding to people's needs, so I agree that that needs to be addressed urgently.

Sir Oliver Heald (North East Hertfordshire) (Con): The hon. Member for Newport East (Jessica Morden) has explained this tragedy extremely well. I want to make three points. The first is that the APPG's excellent report highlights the confusing system for compensation, with the five separate bodies all receiving Department for Health funding. There are two private companies and three registered charities; it is too opaque. I hope Ministers will look to see if there is some way of improving the signposting to ensure that people can find their way through it. The second point is that even if one understands the funding to which one is entitled, the process of claiming it is difficult, confusing and onerous.

Mike Kane (Wythenshawe and Sale East) (Lab) FRED & Eleanor now have to deal with the Caxton Foundation. May I make this promise to the House? If I am ever fortunate enough to stand at either of those Dispatch Boxes, I will never hide behind the fact that we have set up a third-party organisation to pass the buck to. We should accept responsibility here in this House; this is where the buck should stop. Eleanor has described the Caxton Foundation to me as a sheer and utter waste of time; she feels as though she is begging when claiming. The system does not allow a retrospective claim. She put in for a respite holiday, but it did not come through, so she missed her holiday slot. Other issues have been identified. There are no separate forms for carers to apply for their own grants, and winter fuel payments are counted as income. The stress has ruined the lives of many carers of those who suffer from this condition.

Mr Tom Clarke (Coatbridge, Chryston and Bellshill) (Lab)My liver consultant applied to Skipton for the stage 2 payment but my application was rejected because I had not reached the 'crisis' point. How can a charity ignore the recommendations of a liver consultant? My experience with Caxton was just as bad. It would take numerous emails and phone calls to get in contact with them. I felt like I was begging the way, they treated me, they insisted I provide a letter from my consultant to confirm I was on treatment. It was I who had to run around seriously ill arranging everything for Caxton. I will never contact Caxton again. These charities are not fit for purpose"

Mr Andy Slaughter (Hammersmith) (Lab): Let me say one quick word about the existing arrangements. The report is good. It produces a lot of evidence for why the current schemes are not working, and we have heard individual criticisms of Macfarlane, Caxton and Skipton. Having read the report, my conclusion is that none of the trusts and funds is fit for purpose. If they are to continue while we await a final settlement, we must have root and branch reform and the funds must be resolved into one effective body. The politics is wrong. The funds purport to be independent bodies, but they appear to be too close to the Department of Health, meaning they have neither the benefits of independence nor the clout of accountability that should lie with the Department of Health. At the same time, they have become part of this degrading process where sufferers, who are largely reliant on benefits, are effectively begging for resources and often living in a state of penury.

We have cleared our debts and with my wife working part time we are managing day to day to keep our heads above water. We have the basics we cannot save money or enjoy holidays. We keep away from past friends as I am well aware of how ill I look and do not want to answer their questions. I take a great deal of medication and am trying to live with the side effects, as is my wife!."

15 Jan 2015 : Column 1066

“Huw Irranca-Davies (Ogmore) (Lab)We have cleared our debts and with my wife working part time we are managing day to day to keep our heads above water. We have the basics we cannot save money or enjoy holidays. We keep away from past friends as I am well aware of how ill I look and do not want to answer their questions. I take a great deal of medication and am trying to live with the side effects, as is my wife!

The Macfarlane Trust had recently sent us a ‘disbursement of reserves’ form, requiring personal and in depth information to enable us to possibly have some money for home improvements. My wife and I felt it was an extremely unjust and unfair way of attempting to distribute funds amongst sufferers of HIV and their families. Not everyone would, or could qualify as they were in rental accommodation, or perhaps their home was not in need of improvements. It was causing a divide amongst the few that have survived this atrocity and we refused to complete it as any reserves we felt need to be distributed equally amongst those of us that are left. It seems the discrimination, separation and sheer lack of consideration for the primary beneficiaries is still very much in evidence. My constituents, like those mentioned in so many stories today, are asking not to have to go out with a begging bowl in complex situations, having to prove that they are worthy. This is an entitlement, not something to be begged for. They want some form of inquiry and a clear apology and there is a crying need for root and branch reform of the structures that have been put in place to help them. This is not working satisfactorily.

My constituents’ story will be reflected in the story of every person and every family affected. The disease does not simply affect them; it forces many into penury, marital difficulty and so many other social problems. It is time to sort this out once and for all.

I think that any solicitor could make the case that after these comments The Macfarlane Trust certainly has NOT got an outstanding reputation in the charity sector and the comments on MFT and Caxton do not reflect well on Jan Barlow.

4) "Each of our clients(Barlow and Evans)has a long standing and excellent reputation in the field of charitable work."

This can also be challenged as in her last job as CE of Fire Fighters Charity,the following is an extract from Civil Society,

Then, the charity refused to confirm or deny reports that its new chief executive Jan Barlow had quit just nine months after taking up the role. It also declined to respond to questions regarding a [website](#) that had been set up by serving and retired fire-fighters to highlight the “excessive” salaries paid to directors of the charity and “inflated operating costs” incurred by it. The site, called ‘Our Ben Fund!’, has since been taken down.

I'm sure a solicitor would be able to find out what the circumstances were behind this .

4) If Barlow and Evans have such a "excellent reputation"

Why did 68 beneficiaries of the MFT sign a petition to express no confidence in their leadership,

Why have numerous MPs spoke out against the Trust?,

Why have letters been sent to the Charity's commission complaining about the The Chair and CE ?one from ex Trustees ,one of whom was government appointed to the MFT ?

Why has their been numerous complaints from beneficiaries to their MPs against Barlow and Evans .

Why did the MFT come out so poorly in the APPG survey?

All the above information is relevant and shows the letter from MFT solicitors to be full of untruths and I feel must be challenged by a solicitor acting for the Haemophilia Society.

Please Liz before you make any rash decision please contact Alistair Burt's office as I know he is hoping to get an adjournment debate on the subject of MFT and along with those MPs Jenny Willott, and Diana Johnson,Jason McCartney and I have been told other MPs, not to mention over a thousand beneficiaries and families, are fully behind you and the Haemophilia Society.

Please ,Please think twice before doing anything at least please contact Alistair Burt, and finally Liz I feel so strongly that you must not give in and say that the accusation was false and with malice,as I know you have not got a bad bone in your body and It would be a gross injustice to see that statement attributed to you.

With Best Wishes

Alan

e

Date: Thu, 26 Feb 2015 18:55:18 -0500

From: [GRO-D]
To: liz@[GRO-C]
CC: bernardmanson@[GRO-C], simon.mower@[GRO-C], [GRO-D], bill.payne@[GRO-C], [GRO-D], [GRO-D], [GRO-D], kate.khair@[GRO-C], [GRO-D], stansboy@[GRO-C]

Subject: Re: Private & Confidential: The Incorporated Trustees of the Macfarlane Trust, Roger Evans & Jan Barlow

Liz,

I felt I had to put my reservations and thoughts/questions into writing. I am **gravely** concerned about you issuing a statement that effectively will be written/signed off by MFT to state that you didn't hear that comment/are mistaken/or lied, and the position that would put you in, (I know this situation must feel like damned if you do damned if you don't) but that would completely discredit you as an individual and the potentially the organisation. You heard what you heard. Currently we have a large amount of support from the community and others willing to stand up and be counted in statements against tMFT. (Remember they *haven't* got a good character/reputation and we can prove it and lets not forget Nadine and Alastair standing up in the Commons "The MFT are not fit for purpose". Also, the petition to get Roger Evans out and 4 ex Trustees from tMFT who have given their evidence). If they get you to say you're mistaken or have lied they already won a defamation case.

I'm worried they've smelled blood(no pun intended). I would **urge** you to seek a second opinion legally and stall the 48hr demand. I seriously doubt the MFT could utilise public funds to take tHS or yourself to Court? Are they already doing so? Do their Board even know? (I'm imagining the headlines now "public money used to take small charity to court" etc...).

Please contact Alistair Burt's office tomorrow, as Alistair is prepared to help anyway he can i.e. with an adjournment debate in the House. I **urge** you to seek clarification from his office before you issue anything further.

I do hope we've screen-grabbed all the posts/comments on Facebook before deleting as we may need them as evidence.

Kind Regards,

[GRO-D]

-----Original Message-----

From: Alan Burgess <stansboy@[GRO-C]>
To: [GRO-D]; Liz Carroll <liz@[GRO-C]>
CC: Bernard Manson <bernardmanson@[GRO-C]>; Simon Mower <simon.mower@[GRO-C]> [GRO-D]; [GRO-D]; Bill Payne <bill.payne@[GRO-C]> [GRO-D]; [GRO-D]; [GRO-D]; [GRO-D]; Kate Khair <kate.khair@[GRO-C]>

Sent: Thu, 26 Feb 2015 18:54

Subject: RE: Private & Confidential: The Incorporated Trustees of the Macfarlane Trust, Roger Evans & Jan Barlow [WOV-LIVE.FID859959]

Well said [GRO-D]

Just one thing that does concern me ,in the letter it included the Trustees of the Macfarlane Trust were in support of Barlow and Evans ,does that mean that the Haemophilia Society appointed trustees who sit on board of the Macfarlane Trust back Barlow and Evans in this?

Perhaps [GRO-D] could enlighten us on this because I think its important to know.

Alan

Subject: Re: Private & Confidential: The Incorporated Trustees of the Macfarlane Trust, Roger Evans & Jan Barlow [IWOV-LIVE.FID859959]

From: [REDACTED] GRO-D
Date: Thu, 26 Feb 2015 17:04:15 +0000

CC: bernardmanson@ GRO-C; simon.mower@ GRO-C; [REDACTED] GRO-D
stansboy@ GRO-C; bill.payne@ GRO-C; [REDACTED] GRO-D; [REDACTED] GRO-D
[REDACTED] GRO-D; Kate.Khair@ GRO-C

To: liz@ GRO-C

Liz, this is the right course of action and you should neither hesitate nor worry about feeling unsettled by this. However unfounded it is, legal threats are always unsettling and irrespective of the truth of the situation, you owe it to yourself not to put yourself through what could turn out to be a disagreeable process. On top of that, THS needs you. Either way, please don't worry about the reputational issues, as you have a board of trustees who only have positive things to say against you (vs Evans/Barlow where it is difficult to find anyone who will say anything positive about them, based on what our members are telling us). This is sabre-rattling by frightened people and it will go away, so open a bottle of something nice and let it wash over you. Unless they are quite mad, given their track records they should not be interested in a forensic focus on this and the disclosure that will come with it about their broader conduct.

Happy to talk whenever you wish,

[REDACTED] GRO-D

On 26 Feb 2015, at 14:38, Liz Carroll <liz@ [REDACTED] GRO-C > wrote:

Dear trustees this came today. I have spoken to Bernard and have a call booked with the Barrister this afternoon. I have removed everything from Facebook but due to personal reasons haven't been able to remove the statement from the website yet. I am sorry but this is the point at which I can't wait anymore. I am not prepared to take the personal risk of future employment [REDACTED] GRO-C so although I know this will be very upsetting for members and will be embarrassing I would like to do everything asked.

I will let you know when I have spoken to the Barrister. I am on my way to the office
Liz

Sent from Samsung Mobile

----- Original message -----

From: Hannah Wilson
Date: 26/02/2015 10:47 (GMT+00:00)
To: Liz Carroll
Cc: Andrew O'Keeffe
Subject: Private & Confidential: The Incorporated Trustees of the Macfarlane Trust, Roger Evans & Jan Barlow [IWOV-LIVE.FID859959]

Dear Sirs

Our clients: The Incorporated Trustees of the Macfarlane Trust, Roger Evans & Jan Barlow

We attach a letter dated 26 February 2015. The hard copy will follow separately by post.

Yours faithfully

Wilson's Solicitors LLP

T [REDACTED] GRO-C
F [REDACTED] GRO-C

Web: www.wilsonslaw.com

<image001.jpg>

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<Letter to L Carroll - 26.02.15.PDF>