

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

THE INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

EXHIBIT WITN3078026



Stone King LLP
DX: 8001 Bath

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Date: 11 March 2015

By DX and Email

Without Prejudice save as to Costs

Dear Sirs

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

Your clients: The Haemophilia Society ("tHS") and Liz Carroll

We write with reference to your letter and enclosure dated 9 March 2015. Adopting your numbering, our clients have asked us to respond as follows:

1 & 2 Noted and agreed save for the fact that it was our clients who wrote to the Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP on 26 February 2015 about your clients' letter of 10 February 2015 ("the Letter"), with copies being sent to the Rt Hon Jenny Willott MP, Jason McCartney MP and Diana Johnson MP. It was as a result of this letter and not due to any steps taken by your clients that Alistair Burt wrote to our clients on 5 March 2015 confirming that he and the other MPs had contacted the Minister, Jane Ellison MP to inform her that they had withdrawn their call for an inquiry.

3 In order to bring this matter to a swift conclusion, our clients are prepared to accept your amendments to the final sentence of the second paragraph of the apology. However, our clients wish to make it clear that the APPG report does not contain any evidence that our clients are anything other than completely committed to the work they undertake on behalf of the beneficiaries of the Macfarlane Trust.

Our clients do not accept the replacement of the word "false" with "incorrect". The clear advice we have received from Counsel is that the Letter falsely, and without merit, brings into disrepute our clients' reputation. Publishing the Letter was reckless, as there was nothing that either Mr Evans or Miss Barlow stated at their meeting with Mrs Carroll on 29 January 2015 which could possibly have provided any reasonable basis for such an allegation. The allegation made by your clients is not incorrect; it is false and therefore our clients insist that the word "false" remains in the apology.

All other amendments in the apology are accepted and an amended draft is enclosed. If your clients object to the above, we suggest that your Mr Sutton contacts by telephone the writer to discuss the wording.

4 Noted and agreed.

5 Noted and agreed. We requested in our letter of 4 March 2015, a copy of the apology on tHS letterhead for our clients records and look forward to receiving confirmation that this request is agreed.

6 Noted and agreed.

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7 At the time of Mr Evan's original call which you refer to in your letter of 9 March 2015, the Letter had already been published and circulated by your clients. Our clients very much regret that they have been compelled to spend money on legal fees in order to resolve this matter but given the actions of your clients and the seriousness of the allegation contained in the Letter, our clients have had no choice but to take steps to protect their interests. This was also made necessary because of enquiries made by journalists from national newspapers contacting our clients. Had your clients given our clients the courtesy in advance to comment and respond to the Letter before publication, your clients could have saved both parties incurring legal fees.

On the basis that the enclosed apology is agreed and published within 24 hours of this letter, our clients will not pursue a claim for their costs. Our clients hope that their reasonable proposal to draw this regrettable matter to a prompt conclusion can be agreed swiftly without further lengthy correspondence and incurring additional legal costs.

Yours faithfully

GRO-C

Wilson's Solicitors LLP

Enc Amended retraction and apology

An Apology by The Haemophilia Society and its Chief Executive, Liz Carroll, to the Incorporated Trustees of the Macfarlane Trust, Roger Evans and Jan Barlow

In a letter dated 10 February 2015 to Jane Ellison MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Public Health, which was also published on our website, we stated that at a recent meeting the Macfarlane Trust's Chair and Chief Executive, Roger Evans and Jan Barlow had advocated to Mrs Carroll that the Government should delay its response to the Penrose Inquiry so that more people would have died as a result of contaminated blood products and the Government would therefore have to pay lower amounts of compensation to the victims.

We now accept that Mr Evans, Miss Barlow and the Macfarlane Trust did not express the opinions attributed to them in our letter in that meeting and that these do not reflect the views of Mr Evans, Miss Barlow and the Macfarlane Trust.

We take this opportunity to retract this false allegation and to apologise unreservedly for any distress and embarrassment caused to Mr Evans, Miss Barlow and the Macfarlane Trust by the publication of our letter. We have undertaken not to repeat this false allegation.

We also apologise unreservedly to the beneficiaries of the Macfarlane Trust for any anxiety that we may have caused them.

Liz Carroll,
Chief Executive