Witness Name: Sharon Belinda BLEE
Statement No: WITN0546001
Exhibits: **WITN0546002 - 23**
Dated: 21st June 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF Sharon Belinda BLEE

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 19th March 2019.

I, Sharon Belinda Blee, will say as follows: -

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Sharon Belinda Blee. My date of birth is **GRO-C** 1962 and I live in Cornwall. My full address is known to the inquiry. I am part-time veterinary nurse at a local surgery and I live with my husband of 37 years Paul. I have two daughters and one son, Nicola, Thomas and Lauren, born in 1981,1983 and 1988.

2. I intend to speak about my infection with the Hepatitis C virus (HCV), Genotype 1, which I contracted as a result of being given a blood transfusion following the birth of my son Thomas in 1983. I was 21 years old.

3. In particular, I intend to discuss the nature of my illness, how the illness affected me, the treatment received and the impact it had on my life and family.

4. Prior to the infection I was a happy, fit optimistic young lady who was looking forward to raising a family and living life.

5. I am not legally represented, I am happy for the Inquiry team investigators to assist me with my statement.

Section 2. How Infected

6. I had my first child, Nicola, in 1981 at Trelsika hospital in Truro, she was very healthy and weighed seven pounds and nine ounces. Two years later I had my second child and first son Thomas at the same hospital.

7. I remember my waters breaking in the night whilst I was at home and going to hospital, having a bath and taking pain relief for my contractions. I was then taken to the delivery suite where I was given gas and air and Pethadone.

8. I gave birth naturally and when Thomas arrived he was a very big baby weighing ten pounds, which made the delivery difficult.

9. After he was born, a nurse told me that I needed a blood transfusion and that I needed to sign this document in order to go ahead, She was very vague when explaining and said it was because I had lost a lot of blood while giving birth. I can't remember the moment clearly as I had just given birth and had used gas and air during the delivery. The copy document from my medical file confirms the transfusion. **WITNO546002** refs.

10. My husband Paul had left the hospital to look after Nicola when they gave me the transfusion. I think I had two units of blood because I remember seeing two bags hanging from the stand. I remember the nurse panicking a bit at the time because of the speed of the first transfusion, but I felt completely fine and had no side effects, I was only exhausted from giving birth. I was in hospital for another day before going home.

11. After coming home with Thomas, I was healthy and carried on with life, there was no indication at that time that I had received contaminated blood. I was tired but I put this down to be a mother of a newborn and a toddler.

12. The only change following the birth of Thomas GRO-C GRO-C GRO-C. I was very worried about getting pregnant again because I was terrified of having another baby as big as Thomas GRO-C GRO-C The experience of having Thomas affected me more mentally than physically. Coincidentally, my third child, Lauren was the smallest child weighing seven pounds and six ounces.

13. I carried on with life and found myself to be excessively tired all the time but as I have already said, I put this down to being a young mum and having a busy life. Paul was working constantly to help make ends meet, his day job was in furnishings and at night he would DJ to help bring on some extra money.

14. I had blood tests since Thomas was born and nothing was said to me and nothing was brought up. I went back to hospital when I had my third child, Lauren, five years later and everything seemed normal, I wasn't treated any differently in comparison to my other children, the doctors weren't wearing gowns or taking any extra precautions around me.

15. I even had my varicose veins done at another hospital after Thomas was born and again nothing was said to me and no one treated me any differently. I had no reason to suspect that anything was wrong.

16. I continued to experience constant exhaustion as the years went by but I assumed this was normal for a mother of three. In 2001, I had also just started training to become a veterinary nurse and so I was spending one day studying at college and then four days on placement at a veterinary surgery, as well as studying at home. Paul had also GRO-C he was at home to help with the children but he continued to DJ in the evenings. It seemed natural to me that I was as tired as I was considering how busy my life had become.

17. I was experiencing cold sweats at night, I wasn't at the age yet when menopause typically kicks in but I am certain that it was brought on early by what I later learned was HCV. My mother didn't experience menopause until her mid fifties so I knew it was early and that something wasn't quite right. I had always slept well but in my late thirties I started having these cold sweats and not sleeping well and I still find it difficult to sleep now.

18. My concentration levels dropped as well but I assumed that was the early onset menopause. Upon reflection, I rationalised these symptoms away in my head with what was happening in my life and didn't recognise that it was an internal problem, but I can see that it was now.

19. I was excited about my new career but I was worried about my exhaustion, eventually it became overwhelming and I had started to notice that my concentration levels were low and I was irritable at home. Paul and I were argue a lot.

20. I had stopped coping with the fatigue mentally, physically and emotionally. I decided to do something about it so I went to see my GP, Dr Mike Ellis at GRO-C surgeries midway through 2001.

21. Dr Ellis was very sympathetic to me and he was very good when I went to see him. He took a blood test and noticed that my ALT levels were high, as **WITNO546003** refs.

22. He referred me to a gastroenterologist, Hyder Hussaini, who initially thought that I had a fatty liver, as **WITNO546004** shows, and I got an outpatient appointment at the Trelsika clinic. My GP Dr Ellis wrote to Dr H. Hussaini, dated 5th June 2002. **WITNO546005** refs.

23. An Australian registrar saw me at the outpatient clinic and I remember that he knew that some people had got HCV from infected blood back in his homeland.

24. I had to answer some questions about my lifestyle such as if I was a drug user and the registrar was affronted that I had been asked those questions. He was very sympathetic towards me and he took more blood for testing.

25. In July 2002, Dr Ellis told me that I was infected with HCV, **WITNO546006** refs. He was very honest with me and said that he didn't know enough about it himself to give me full and proper guidance but he gave me pamphlets that would help explain it and the impact that it was likely to have. He didn't want to attempt to give me more information in case he was incorrect but he did refer me to back to Hyder Hussaini who he said would be able to give me more information.

26. Dr Ellis was kind to me and didn't want to appear judgemental, it was clear that he had made a link to my blood transfusion after giving birth to Thomas very quickly, **WITNO546007 & 8** refs. I was never a big

drinker and I was never accused of being one, everyone I spoke to accepted that the HCV was caused by the transfusion.

27. I was also tested for HIV but I can't remember if I was told that I was being tested for it, I just remember being told I was negative. I wasn't upset or angry with this as I was just so relieved that that I didn't have HIV.

28. The pamphlets covered the impact HCV could have on work and family life as well as the likelihood of infecting another person at work. I read them all straight away by myself, I felt lost without having verbal guidance but I understood and appreciated why Dr Ellis hadn't given me any.

29. I was very scared reading the pamphlets and I was instantly terrified about my children, I didn't want the HCV to spread to them and I was very worried that I already had infected them. I was incredibly worried about Lauren, as I had been infected by the time that I was pregnant with her.

30. Two days after I was told that I had HCV, I had the pamphlets and I was planning to tell Paul. Before I could have that discussion, we got into an argument about something trivial and in the middle of it I shouted at him 'You think you have problems, I have HCV'.

31. This wasn't the way in which I wanted to tell Paul and we later sat down and talked about it properly. Neither of us knew what HCV was, we were completely dumbfounded and puzzled by the whole situation and it was very difficult. I felt uncomfortable talking to Paul about it, I felt dirty and we didn't have enough information on it, we only had the pamphlets. It was isolating, as there were a million and one questions and no answers. I remember being angry about it all at the time whereas Paul was more sad than angry.

32. I told the children individually soon after I talked to Paul. I told Lauren first as she was the only one who still lived with us. I tried to keep the conversation as normal as possible and told her one-day after school.

33. She is sensitive and we are very close and I didn't want to upset her. Similarly to the conversation I had with Paul, Lauren was upset and she had a lot of questions, which I couldn't answer, she knew I had something but didn't know what would happen in the long term. I told her that this wasn't the end of the world and I always try to find the good in everything and make the best of a bad situation, but it is hard to always be optimistic in this situation.

34. Nicola reacted similarly to me when I told her and she, like me, was putting on a brave face. It was hard to work out how Thomas felt at the time as he was a teenager and it was difficult to know how he felt about most things, especially this. I made sure to tell him while we were doing something and not a serious 'face to face' so that he would feel more comfortable.

35. I started treatment of Interferon and Ribavirin soon after my diagnosis. I continued to work during my treatment as it helped me to cope. I injected myself with interferon on Friday evenings so that I could do the working week. I was in bed all weekend on Interferon and it felt like I had extreme flu, I had lethargy and was exhausted. I only wanted to sleep and I experienced shivers and shakes with terrible night sweats, it felt as if my body was leaking so I would go downstairs to sleep on the sofa so that I didn't disturb Paul.

36. My boss reacted very well when I told him of my HCV as did all of the other staff I worked with, I made sure they were all as informed as they could be and I gave them pamphlets about it so they could know exactly what was happening. I was always upfront about how to deal with me if I did bleed and they respected that. My experience with

telling my boss and my colleagues was always positive and I never received any stigma at the time or at any stage.

37. I didn't finish the course but stopped treatment on 5th December 2003 because my viral load had only reduced slightly and the ALT had increased. I found out that the treatment hadn't work while speaking to Liz Farringdon, (Cole) a nurse who worked with Hyder Hussaini, who was brilliant throughout my diagnosis and treatment. She told me that I had the hardest hepatitis genotype to get rid of, (Genotype 1)

38. I was absolutely devastated that it didn't work. I tried to stay positive because that's the mentality that brings you through difficult times and I was told not to worry and that I could wait to recover and then try again.

39. After months of recovery, I had my second round of treatment with Interferon and Ribavirin. At this stage my liver was almost cirrhotic and I had liver pain but I didn't recognise it as such at the time. I lost a lot of weight during the second round of treatment and I became very thin.

40. The treatment made me nauseous and I couldn't eat. I had similar symptoms to the first round, they weren't any worse than before and it felt very much the same. I didn't finish the second course either and I failed the treatment very quickly, my body wasn't supporting the treatment at all and I think I became sicker than I realised at the time.

41. I became depressed and was constantly tired. This is reflected in the letter to my Doctor dated 31st August 2004, Liz suggested that I should try Chinese Mushroom nutrition and some acupuncture. **WITN0546009** refs. I didn't try this treatment; I didn't act upon her suggestion. Life was just to busy.

42. As I have said, the first round of treatment failed. I continued to feel tired, sweaty and lethargic. The Doctors thought that I would be a

suitable candidate for re treatment with Viraferon peg, Ribavarin and Amantadine. I believe I started this second round of treatment in August 2005. **WITNO546010,11,12** refs.

43. In a letter dated 7th December 2005, I received information that the Hepatitis C test undertaken in week 14 of the second treatment had returned as negative. They would re check at week 24. I was obviously very pleased with the findings, as the treatment was quite difficult. **WITNO546013** refs.

44. On 22nd February 2006, again I received a letter stating that the Hepatitis C test undertaken on 2nd February 2006 at week 24 of the treatment had returned a negative result. The treatment was to continue with the full 48-week programme. Like before I was optimistic of the outcome. **WITN0546014** refs.

45. By the June of 2006 I was feeling very tired, my mood swings were getting worse. I had seven more weeks of treatment to go. In a letter dated 8th June 2006 I now see that Liz had recommended that I be signed off work. She stated that I looked exhausted. **WITN0546015** refs.

46. In a letter dated 21st July 2006, Liz wrote to my GP stating that I was generally debilitated, fatigued and had night sweats. I also had gastroenteritis. The letter says I had two more weeks to go (of the treatment) **WITN05460016** refs.

47. I completed the treatment and waited for the result. In October 2006, I received the devastating news that the tests I had had done on 21st September 2006 had returned as being positive.

48. The treatment had failed. I was absolutely gutted, I had given the treatment two shots, gone through hell and now what do I do? Paul was very disappointed to. The letter goes onto say that I maybe

suitable for one of our colleague's, Dr Matthew Cramp clinical trials at Derriford Hospital. **WITN0546017** refs.

49. By January 2008 I was still feeling very tired, I was also complaining to my GP of memory loss. To add to my stress I was dealing with the fact that I had to attend a tribunal regarding the stopping of my benefits. **WITN0546018** refs. This was absolutely ridiculous, I went to the tribunal, they asked me several stupid questions such as, can I bend down, pick things up, sleep at night. They then declared me fit for work. They didn't take any of my medical problems into consideration. I lost the benefits.

50. In a letter dated 13th August 2008, I note that Dr Hussaini writes to my GP stating that my repeat liver biopsy showed advanced chronic liver disease with a liver that is nearly cirrhotic (stage 5 fibrosis) and that I am at risk of developing primary liver cell cancer. I was very scared; the word cancer has now been mentioned. I was very worried and tried my best to quell the feelings of fear. **WITN0546019** refs.

51. The clinical trials mentioned earlier in my statement became available. In a letter dated 9th February 2010 to my GP, Dr Ellis from Dr Matthew Cramp is confirmation that I had consented to participate in a clinical study. The clinical trial concerned the usage of TMC435. **WITN0546020** refs.

52. I had to travel to Plymouth for this treatment and again I chose to work during this treatment as well. On days that I had to visit the hospital, I would leave the house at 6 in the morning and travel an hour and a half to Derreford for the treatment and then back again to start my shift at 11 o'clock.

53. The treatment consisted of injections and tablets but I was never told what they were, the nurse gave the injection on the first visit and then

she gave me my allocation of tablets. At first the visits were weekly, then every two weeks and then once a month.

54. I felt a lot better on this treatment than the previous two; it was also a lot shorter than the yearlong Interferon and Ribavirin treatment courses. I felt quite well throughout the treatment.

55. In a letter, dated 6th June 2011 to Dr Hyder from Dr Matthew Cramp there is confirmation that it had been 6 months since I had completed the treatment and that he was pleased to say that my repeat bloods once again show HCV RNA to be undetectable. I was finally clear of the HCV. This was amazing, I was ecstatic, Paul and I were so pleased.

56. I later received a letter dated 6th October 2011, from Dr Cramp. He informed me that I had received the active drug TMC435 in a dose of 100mg for 24 weeks. **WITNO546022** refs.

57. In a letter dated 9th May 2013, I again received news that my Hepatitis C PCR test was negative. **WITN0546023** refs. I have since been discharged from the liver and Hepatitis clinic.

Section 3. Other Infections

58. I have not received any infection other than HCV as a result of being given infected blood.

Section 4. Consent

59. Following the birth of Thomas, I signed a consent form to have a blood transfusion, as I trusted that it was necessary. I was not told of any potential risk of the blood being infected and so I do not consider this to be informed consent.

60. I consented to all the tests of which I had known about but I cannot remember whether I consented to being tested for HIV, there may have been other tests, which I did not know about.

Section 5. Impact

61. My infection with HCV definitely affected my work and career heavily, I feel I had a lot of potential which has gone unrealised because I haven't had the physical or mental capacity. This has meant that I haven't been able to specialise in anaesthesia like I wanted to in my job and I have had to give up on big professional dreams.

62. I know that there is a lot more that I want to do with my professional life and explore in more depth. HCV affected me mentally and physically to the extent that I can only be a general nurse and can't progress any further. I know that HCV affected my mental capacity heavily as I have a great lack of clarity about thought processes. As I was infected so young, I will never know what I could have been.

63. I loved going back to school and I wish I could have done better, I knew I could have done better but because the HCV took a hit to my mental ability and my concentration I had to work harder to get where I wanted to be. I was infected at a time my potential should have been realised but instead my progression has been stunted because of the HCV.

64. I had to take a three-year break in my second year of nursing in 2004 because my health took a toll on me and I was unable to work. I went back part time and worked as a locum as well and my boss offered to put me through training. I am now qualified but I had to stop and later restart my training because of my health.

65. Even now, I have had to take a new job at a different surgery, as I am unable to keep up with the changes at my current surgery. I have had to reduce my working days to three days a week. I loved preparing for the new changes but it is too much for me physically now, I go into 'limp mode'. I should probably go down to two days a week but I want to work so make myself do three days, my energy levels certainly don't allow me to work the full five days which I would like. I get up very early on the days I do work as I need extra time to get ready and I need time to sit down to decompress before going to work.

66. My HCV infection also had a large effect on my children. I know that Thomas feels guilty about my infection as I was infected because of his birth. It is not his fault in any way but his wife has told me that this guilt is something that weighs him down and I wish he didn't feel that way.

67. My eldest, Nicola, went to university in 1998 and I know that I didn't give her enough time because life was so overwhelming at that point and I was struggling to cope. I didn't help her enough because of everything and I wasn't there mentally enough to support her and it is a big regret of mine. I don't think Nicola and I are as close as we could have been. If I had known about what was wrong with me at the time, I perhaps could have handled things differently.

68. We are still close and Nicola is very involved and she spoke to my HCV nurse but she is very independent but I think she is almost too independent and we are definitely not as close as we could be and I think that time distanced us.

Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support

69. I have felt very well supported by all of the doctors involved. My only negative experience came from Matthew Cramp when he told me that I had cleared HCV. He was a nice man but when I told him that my

Skipton Fund applications had been approved he responded 'Why? You're cured?' This was unnecessary and insensitive of him.

70. I am angrier about that comment than everything else and it tainted my entire experience of receiving my result and my payments, it completely undermined the entire feeling of relief. It left such a sour taste in my mouth, it was inappropriate and it brought down what was such a happy day for me and one that I had dreamed about seeing for so long.

71. I would like to have follow up care, as ever since my negative HCV result and I was discharged I have not had any appointments or scans or even information about how to keep my liver healthy. I don't blame the people involved, I understand that it is down to the processes in place but I feel very out on a limb and very concerned that I may be doing something that may hurt my body or my liver. I would like some guidance about how to maintain myself, as I do not feel out of the woods. I try and live a healthy life, eat properly.

72. Hyder Hussaini and Liz Farringdon were both involved in setting up a support group for people with HCV. The support group was for anyone with HCV and it did not discriminate between different sources of infection.

73. I went to one meeting but only one as I didn't find it very helpful because I didn't meet anyone who I could relate to as none of them were in a similar position to me. I don't know if there were other people who had HCV because of receiving infected blood, we didn't talk about how we had got HCV. The only thing that I had in common with the other members was actually having the HCV.

74. Liz Farringdon (Cole) also set up a focus group as she was very kind and wanted to help everyone. Unfortunately, the focus group wasn't useful to me either as there was again a mixed group of people and I

couldn't find anyone with similar experiences. I am now part of a Facebook group for people who were infected by contaminated blood. I find it useful to read the posts and articles. I never write my own.

75. Liz Farringdon was very supportive and even wrote to my dentist and as a result I have had no problems with having dental work and have not been treated any differently. I have had a lot of dental work done which I can't be sure but do suspect is a result of my infection with HCV.

76. I had two liver biopsies, one of which was cancelled because of a bed shortage and so I ended up paying £1,000 for that biopsy to be done privately. I knew I needed to have it done as I needed answers then and couldn't wait. The biopsy showed that I had stage 5 cirrhosis, previously described as at **WITO546019.**

77. I also had abdominal pain and gallstones but now that they have been diagnosed they don't cause me many problems.

78. My employment treated me very well and positively when I first told them I was infected with HCV, however, now I find that the staff are running to bandage me up if I get scratched by an animal in the surgery. They are more cautious now that I'm older and my reactions aren't as quick.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

79. I made two applications for two payments from the Skipton Fund, both of which ended up successful. The two payments came all in one lump sum of £50,000 as I met the criteria for the first payment and shortly after that had been approved I met the criteria for the second payment. I received these payments in April and May 2011.

80. I now also receive a monthly payment from EIBSS of £1,500. In addition I receive the winter fuel allowance.

81. My husband Paul is not entitled to any compensation which is concerning for me as the current payments form a big part of our income and those payments will stop when I am no longer here. It is a worry that I may not live as long as I would have had, had I not been infected.

82. Liz Farringdon was extremely helpful when I was applying to the Skipton Fund. She helped me to fill out all of the forms and she found everything that I needed to complete them for me. I know that I would have struggled with my applications if she had not helped me, she knew this too and that is why she gave me so much help and support.

83. I still have great faith in the NHS regardless of what happened to me as I have always been very well looked after by all the members of the profession particularly so after my diagnosis.

Section 8. Other Issues

84. While the money is helpful, it doesn't compensate for the infection and the effect it has had on my life and on my family, I fully appreciate the payments but I would have preferred not to have been infected at all. That choice was taken from me. My life was changed when I was very young. I was infected for over 20 years.

85. I believe that it is too late to bring those responsible to rights even though it would be nice to see justice done but I also feel angry about the innocent people in the chain who have been implicated in this issue.

86. I don't like to use the word, but the best way to describe how I feel is that I feel owed, as I don't know how long my liver will last, I don't know

what effect the HCV has had on my life expectancy and at the very least I should be able to enjoy whatever time I have left. I was infected at a young age so there is another life that I am left wondering about – what quality of life would I have had, how long would I have lived if I had not been infected.

87. I am left with lingering questions about the HCV and the extent of the impact it has had on my life. I used to do everything around the house from fixing bikes to mending clothes but now my thumbs have given up. I have a lot of joint pain but no swelling and I don't have arthritis, I wonder if this is a result of the HCV. I will never know the full extent of the impact as I have been infected for my entire adult life and so I don't have any other part of my life to which to compare this time.

88. I would like the Inquiry to be able to bring about fair treatment for everyone who was infected, as there are those who have suffered discrimination. I know that I would have been terrified had I been infected with HIV particularly due to the way the media portrayed AIDS and the great uncertainty surrounding it.

89. I hope that the Inquiry can also answer questions such as why it has taken so long for this issue to be recognised and why there are people who still don't know whether they are infected.

90. I want to know why there are no efforts to make things right and give people the help they need because of this. I was at the GP surgery when I picked up my medical records and I told the practice manager that they were for the Infected Blood Inquiry and she didn't know what I was talking about, some medical professionals still don't know what the Inquiry is despite the publicity and I am astounded at that.

91. I remember being shocked when watching the Panorama documentary that this was allowed to happen and that the blood was not being screened. I don't remember any big call for donations made at the time,

there was no particular effort made to get people in the UK to become donors. That was my first hearing of the detail behind the infected blood and it was hard to swallow.

92. I would love to be a blood donor, especially as I have a rare blood type, which is in demand, but that choice has been taken away from me. I am relieved that I never did donate blood in the twenty years between being infected and being told I was infected. I have always wanted to be an organ donor and I have signed up to be one for my whole life but I can't do that anymore.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed GRO-C

Dated 21st June 2019.

TABLE OF EXHIBITS

Exhibit Number	SHARON BLEE W0546 - Description
WITN0546002	Copy Co-operation card Maternity Patients - INO Sharon Blee: Showing Transfusion 201983
WITN0546003	Letter to Dr Ellis dated 8th July 2001, asking for bloods to be checked for HCV. From Dr J.Wong.
WITN0546004	Letter to Dr Ellis dated 11th June 2002. Stating 'probably is going to have a fatty liver' From Dr S.Hyder Hussaini
WITN0546005	Letter to Hyder Hussaini dated 5th June 2002. Isolated raised ALT of 66. From Dr Ellis. 'I really don't know whether we ought to be investigating this at all'
WITN0546006	Report dated 27th June 2002 from Microbiology. Hepatitis B surface Ag. (MEIA) NOT detected. Hepatitis C IgG (EIA) POSITIVE. INO Sharon BLEE
WITN0546007	Letter to Hyder Hussaini dated 16th August 2002. Further investigation since then has shown that she's got Hepatitis C. Did have a blood transfusion in 1983- Test Husband, not sure what to do about her 14 year old daughter. Occasional needle stick injury as Veterinary assistant, but I don't suppose this virus is transmissible. From Dr Ellis.

WITN0546008	Letter to Dr Ellis dated 17th October 2002. Confirming that she genuinely did pick this virus up from a blood transfusion in 1983 when she had her first son. From Dr Nic Randall.
WITN0546009	Letter to Dr Ellis dated 31st August 2004. States Sharon has been feeling rather depressed and has problems with chronic fatigue relating to HCV. Suggested Chinese Mushroom nutrition. From Liz Cole. Hepatology Nurse.
WITN0546010	Letter to Dr Ellis dated 4th June 2005. Confirming 5 months of combination anti viral therapy and did show a reduction in her viral load but never became PCR negative. From Dr S.Hussaini. Also mentions checking daughter for HCV.
WITN0546011	Letter dated 28th July 2005 to Dr Ellis. Plan to start her on Pegasys 180mcgs sub-cut weekly to be taken with Ribavirin 1000mgs daily in split doses. Adding Amantadine taken 300mgs daily. From Liz Cole.
WITN0546012	Letter to Dr Ellis dated 18th August 2005 to Dr Ellis. Sharon has commenced her treatment on 19th August 2005. With doses. From Liz Cole.
WITN0546013	Letter to Dr Ellis dated 7th December 2005. Delighted to say that a qualitative hepatitis C PCR test undertaken at week 14 has returned as being negative. Continue and re check at week 24. From Liz Cole.
WITN0546014	Letter to Dr Ellis dated 22nd February 2006. Delighted to say Sharon's hepatitis C test undertaken at week 24 of treatment has retuned as being negative. Continue with the full 48 week treatment programme. From Liz Cole
WITN0546015	Letter to Dr Ellis dated 8th June 2006. Sharon is really feeling the grind of Hepatitis C treatment. Tired and mood swings. From Liz Cole.
WITN0546016	Letter to Dr Ellis dated 21st July 2006 to Dr Ellis. Sharon is on week 46 of treatment. Generally debilitated. Fatigued. Night sweats. Gastroenteritis. Two weeks to go. From Liz Cole.
WITN0546017	Letter to Dr Ellis dated 10th October 2006. Unfortunately Sharon's hepatitis c test on 21st September has returned as being positive. Maybe suitable for clinical trials. From Liz Cole.
WITN0546018	Letter to Dr Ellis dated 4th January 2008. Sharon remains tired and also complained of memory loss. Mentions forthcoming tribunal regarding the stopping of her benefits. From Gillian Courtauld.
WITN0546019	Letter to Dr Ellis dated 13th August 2008. Her repeat liver biopsy shows advanced chronic liver disease. From Dr Hyder Hussaini.
WITN0546020	Letter to Dr Ellis dated 9th February 2009. Consent to participate in a clinical study from Dr Matthew Cramp.
WITN0546021	Letter to Dr Hussaini dated 6th June 2011. Week 72 visit for the ASPIRE study. 6 months since she completed treatment. Repeat bloods once again show HCV RNA to be undetectable.
WITN0546022	Letter to Sharon Blee dated 6th October 2011. You received

	the active drug, TMC43 in a dose of 100mg for 24 weeks of your treatment which is good news and I am sure this explains why you achieved such a good sustained virological response. From Dr Matthew E Cramp MD FRCP.
WITN0546023	Letter to Dr Ellis dated 9th May 2013. Hepatitis C PCR test was negative. From Dr William Stableforth MB BCh, MRCP.