

Witness Name: Karen Bailey

Statement No.: WITN4936027

Exhibits: None

Dated: 17 May 2021

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

SECOND WRITTEN STATEMENT OF KAREN BAILEY

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 10 May 2021.

I, Karen Bailey, will say as follows: -

Question 1: During the assessment of applications by IBPSNI, where is other external advice recorded, such as legal advice or policy advice relevant to an application, if not in the individual beneficiary file?

If IBPSNI seek external RBSO legal or DHNI policy advice pertaining to the assessment of an application the aforesaid advice would be retained on the beneficiary file and/or the RBSO email secure database.

Question 2: Are records kept of Appeals Panel meetings? If so, please provide the Inquiry with the minutes/decision summaries from these meetings.

RBSO avails of the EIBSS Medical Appeals Panel. The Appeal Panel does not share minutes/decision summaries of their meetings with IBPSNI only the outcome of their decision detailed in the Chairperson letter to the appellant.

Question 3: Would a statement prepared for the purposes of the Infected Blood Inquiry be accepted as evidence that an individual was infected with HIV or HCV via NHS blood or blood products in lieu of medical records?

The RBSO avails of the medical assessors within EIBSS and their decision making rationale on HIV or HCV applications and supporting documentation. If EIBSS change their policy on accepting statements prepared for the purposes of the Infected Blood Inquiry in lieu of medical records that would be a policy matter/decision for DHNI to implement in Northern Ireland. On one occasion a applicant supplied an Inquiry statement as part of their supporting evidence in relation to a HIV application. I cannot confirm if the Inquiry statement contributed in the decision making process of the EIBSS assessor and the subsequent positive outcome.

Statement of Truth

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

GRO-C

Signed _____

17 May 2021

Dated _____