

Witness Name: Karen Bailey
Statement No.: WITN4936028
Exhibits: WITN4936029-WITN4936032
Dated: 2 September 2022

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF KAREN BAILEY ON BEHALF OF BUSINESS SERVICES ORGANISATION

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 25 July 2022.

I, Karen Bailey, will say as follows: -

Section 1: Introduction

- 1.1 My name is Karen Bailey. I am Chief Executive of Business Services Organisation. My professional address is Business Services Organisation (BSO) Headquarters, 2 Franklin Street, Belfast, BT2 8DQ. My date of birth is known to the Inquiry.
- 1.2 In order to address the questions posed in the Rule 9 request of 25 July 2022, I have received assistance from the Infected Blood Payment Scheme Manager.

Section 2: Response to Questions

NIIBSS beneficiary data

When answering the below questions, where not otherwise indicated, please disseminate the information by year since NIIBSS' inception, in addition to total cumulative figures.

- 1. Please provide the Inquiry with the total number of beneficiaries, to date, who have registered with NIIBSS since the scheme's inception.**

- 2.1 113 beneficiaries have registered with NIIBPS since inception in November 2017. Please note this figure does not include registered Estates.

Please refer to the below table which details beneficiaries' year of registration and correlating numbers.

Year of Scheme Registration	Number of Beneficiaries
2017	84
2018	12
2019	6
2020	4
2021	7
2022	0

2. Of the total number of beneficiaries enrolled in the scheme, please confirm how many were enrolled to receive support as a result of hepatitis C infection caused by:

1.1. Blood transfusions;

1.2. Blood products.

- 2.2 86 infected beneficiaries were enrolled in the scheme to receive support as a result of a hepatitis C infection. Please note 3 co-infected beneficiaries are included in this number.

- 2.3 The breakdown is as follows:

Category	Number of Beneficiaries
Blood transfusions	3
Blood products	1
Infected through spouse/partner	1
Unknown	81

- 2.4 The breakdown by year of scheme registration and the number of beneficiaries in each category is as follows:

Year of Scheme Registration	Blood Transfusions	Blood Products	Infected through Partner/ Spouse	Unknown
2017			1	76

2018				3
2019	1	1		2
2020	1			
2021	1			
2022				

2.5 From the information held by the scheme I am unable to determine the cause of infection for 81 hepatitis C beneficiaries though 59 are haemophiliacs and 22 are defined as 'other' per the information supplied to the scheme by the Alliance House Organisations.

3. Of the total number of beneficiaries registered with the scheme, please confirm how many were enrolled to receive support as a result of HIV infection caused by:

a. Blood transfusions;

b. Blood products.

2.6 There are two mono HIV beneficiaries registered with the scheme. One beneficiary registered in 2021 as the result of a blood transfusion and the other registered in 2017. The route of infection was via a partner.

4. Of the total number of beneficiaries registered with the scheme, please confirm how many were enrolled to receive support who were not *directly infected*, i.e. *affected individuals*, since the inception of the scheme:

2.7 There are 25 affected beneficiaries registered with the scheme since inception. They are registered as non-infected bereaved.

2.8 The breakdown by year of scheme registration is as follows:

Year of Registration	Number of beneficiaries
2017	6
2018	9
2019	2
2020	3

2021	5
2022	0

a. Please provide the Inquiry with the total number of such individuals who were affected by hepatitis C caused by:

- i. Blood transfusions;**
- ii. Blood products.**

2.9 From the information held by the scheme, 1 individual is affected by hepatitis C caused by a blood transfusion and 2 individuals are affected due to blood products.

b. Please provide the Inquiry with the total number of such individuals who were affected by HIV caused by:

- i. Blood transfusions;**
- ii. Blood products.**

2.10 From the information held by the scheme, I am unable to determine the number of individuals affected by HIV caused by either blood transfusions or blood products. In order to answer this question direct communication by the scheme to the affected beneficiaries would be required.

5. Of the total number of beneficiaries registered with the scheme, please confirm how many were enrolled to receive support due to being co-infected with hepatitis C and HIV.

2.11 Three co-infected beneficiaries with hepatitis C and HIV registered with the scheme in 2017.

6. Of the total number of beneficiaries registered with the scheme, please set out how many were eligible due to having been infected secondarily e.g. by a partner or family member who was infected with hepatitis C or HIV, as a result of having received infected blood or blood products disseminated by infection.

2.12 Two beneficiaries who registered with the scheme in 2017 were infected by a partner with hepatitis C and/or HIV. From the information held on file, I am unable to determine the route of infection in relation to their deceased partners.

7. Of the total number of beneficiaries enrolled in the scheme, please confirm how many were a beneficiary of a previous scheme.

2.13 103 beneficiaries out of a total number of 113 were members of a previous scheme in receipt of regular payments, one off lump sums or both.

8. Please set out how many applications NIIBPS have received since the establishment of the schemes.

2.14 71 applications have been submitted to the scheme since its establishment. Of this number, two applications are currently pending.

2.15 Please refer to the table below for the breakdown of numbers and comparative years.

Year	Number of applications
2017-2018	8
2018-2019	13
2019-2020	19
2020-2021	13
2021-2022	16
2022-2023	2

a. Of the total applications received, please set out how many were unsuccessful or have not resulted in payment to the applicant.

2.16 16 applications have been unsuccessful and 2 applications resulted in non-payment due to incomplete information and funding available from another government body.

2.17 Please refer to the table below for the breakdown of numbers and comparative years.

Year	Unsuccessful Applications
2017-2018	3
2018-2019	4
2019-2020	7

2020-2021	1
2021-2022	3
2022-2023	0

b. Where this has been provided to the Inquiry previously, please provide updated data.

2.18 Please refer to exhibits 1,2 & 3 in relation to the updated data.

Exhibit 1: Refused Estate HCV application

Exhibit 2: Estate HCV application returned to claimant

Exhibit 3: One off grant application

9. Please set out how many beneficiaries registered with the scheme were infected with:

- a. Hepatitis C;**
- b. HIV;**
- c. Both Hepatitis C and HIV;**

have subsequently died/have been deregistered due to death

2.19 Please refer to the table below which details the breakdown of the total number of beneficiaries registered with the scheme infected with Hepatitis C, HIV or both including deaths.

Category	Number of beneficiaries
Hepatitis C	83
HIV	2
Both Hepatitis C and HIV	3

Please refer to the table below which details the breakdown of the total number of beneficiaries died within the scheme infected with Hepatitis C, HIV or both.

Category	Number of beneficiaries
Hepatitis C	8
HIV	0
Both Hepatitis C and HIV	1

10.If any data cannot be disseminated in the above categories the Inquiry requests that these data are instead provided in a manner considered most appropriate by NIIBPS.

2.20 Not applicable.

11.Please provide the Inquiry with any documents and files that correspond with this data.

2.21 Please refer to exhibit 4 which correlates to the response in question 9.

Other

12.If, in responding to the above requests, you identify other relevant data which may assist the Inquiry's investigations, please also include this in your response.

2.22 Not applicable.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed:

GRO-C

Dated: 02/09/2022