

Witness Name: Robin Swann

Statement No.: WITN5570019

Exhibits: [WITN5570020 – WITN5570021]

Dated: 29 April 2021

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

SECOND WRITTEN STATEMENT OF ROBIN SWANN MLA

I, Robin Swann, in response to the Rule 9 request from Jillian Roe, Infected Blood Inquiry, dated 9 April 2021, will say as follows:

- 1. At paragraph 3.12 of your draft written statement you refer to the Infected Blood Payment Scheme Questionnaire (WITN5570009). This document includes that the survey results will be used in a report to be completed by November 2020. Was this report completed? If so, please provide a copy to the Inquiry. If not, please explain why not.**

- 1.1** The closing date for survey responses was extended by one week to allow more time for beneficiaries to respond and following analysis by Departmental officials, including both policy leads and statisticians, the report of the findings of the survey was completed in February 2020. The report is available online at: www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/infected-blood-payment-scheme-ni-

[survey-report](#) and a copy was also sent to all NI Scheme beneficiaries. The link to the report was included in the press release (**WITN5570017**) that issued to announce the introduction of annual financial support to non-infected bereaved spouses. The report (**WITN5570020**) is included along with this statement and listed in the table of exhibits at annex A.

- 2. At paragraph 5.2 and 5.3 of your draft written statement you refer to a briefing from your officials in March 2020 setting out the most common impacts of contaminated blood and blood products experienced by victims. Please provide the Inquiry with a copy of this briefing.**

2.1 A copy of the submission is included with this statement and listed in the table of exhibits at annex A (**WITN5570021**).

- 3. At paragraph 5.5 and 5.6 of your draft written statement you refer to a specialist psychological support service for patients and families infected and/or affected by contaminated blood. Please explain:**

- (a) how patients are referred to this service;**
- (b) how many patients have engaged with the service;**
- (c) the percentage of patients that engage with the service that are:**
 - i. infected with a bleeding disorder;**
 - ii. infected without a bleeding disorder (i.e. infected via blood transfusion);**
 - iii. not infected, but are affected by contaminated blood.**

3.1 These questions should be addressed to Belfast Health and Social Care Trust as they provide the service.

- 4. Further to paragraph 6.11 of your draft written statement, please explain:**
- (a) the type of one-off grants available;**
 - (b) how, in the absence of a policy, beneficiaries are aware of the support available through one-off grants.**

4.1 (a) The types of support available are included in the England Infected Blood Support Scheme (EIBSS) guidance which was provided in Liz Redmond's second witness statement (**WITN4066015**); examples include counselling, respite breaks, hospital travel, dental costs, car repairs and mobility aids.

4.1 (b) Both the NI Direct and BSO websites state that discretionary grant payments are available and the advice is to contact the Scheme for further information. Beneficiaries are advised by the Scheme Manager at RBSO of further details of the types of support available to them. All applications are made to the scheme administrator RBSO. The '*England Infected Blood Support Scheme (EIBSS) Discretionary one-off payments - Guidance Document*' (**RLIT0001502**) is available online on the EIBSS website:

www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2019-07/Discretionary%20payments%2007.19.pdf. A policy for discretionary support in NI will be developed as part of the ongoing Review.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed _____ **GRO-C** _____ Robin Swann MLA

Dated 29/4/21

Annex A**Table of exhibits**

Exhibit number	Description	Date
WITN5570020	Final Report - Findings of the NI Infected Blood Payment Scheme beneficiary survey - 2020	1/03/21
WITN5570021	Submission to Minister SUB-1150-2020 - NI Infected Blood Payment Scheme - Phase 1 - Interim Payments - Feb 2020	4/3/20