Witness Name: Iona Philp
Statement No.: WITN4048001
Exhibits: None
Dated:

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF IONA PHILP

I, Iona Philp, will say as follows: -

1. I qualified as a state registered nurse in March 1980. Between March and September 1980, I was a staff nurse on a general and vascular surgery ward at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. Between September 1980 and October 1982, I was a staff nurse in theatres at Western General Hospital. Between October 1982 and May 1983 I was a staff nurse on a neurosurgery ward at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary.

2. Between May 1983 and July 1986, I was sister at the haemophilia centre at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. In the course of this employment, I had a period of maternity leave, April 1985 to January 1986.

3. Between June 1987 and November 1989, I worked as a district nurse on the Lothian Health Board nurse bank. Between June 1992 and October 1994, I worked as bone bank co-ordinator for the East of Scotland Blood Transfusion Service. Between November 1994 and June 1997, I was senior nurse at the East of Scotland Blood Transfusion Service. Between December 2000 and January 2004, I worked for Tayside Primary Care Trust as a Marie Curie

nurse on the nurse bank. Between August 2001 and September 2002, I worked for Tayside Primary Care Trust as a district nurse. Between January 2003 and May 2003, I worked for Fife Primary Care Trust as a community nurse.

4. Between May 2003 and January 2004, I worked for Perth and Kinross Local Health Care Co-Operative as gold standards framework facilitator, with responsibility for implementation of the gold standards framework within general practices in Tayside, Perth and Kinross. Between January 2004 and November 2005, I worked for Lothian University Hospitals Trust as project manager for the colorectal cancer project. Between November 2005 and April 2007, I worked for South East Edinburgh and Angus Community Health Care Partnerships as project manager for the Scottish primary care collaborative project. Between May 2007 and May 2008, I worked for NHS Fife as project support manager, seeking to improve access to local health and social care systems.

5. Between May 2008 and January 2011, I worked for the Scottish Government as regional manager for the long-term conditions collaborative. Between January 2011 and July 2017, I worked for the South-East Scotland Regional Planning Group as regional clinical network manager for neonatal services. Between December 2014 and February 2017, I worked on secondment for NHS Tayside as project manager for specialist palliative care.

6. Since July 2017, I have worked for NHS Tayside as managed care network manager for palliative and end-of-life care.

<u>Haemophilia centre, Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, May 1983 to July 1986</u>

7. I was employed as sister at the haemophilia centre, Edinburgh Royal Infirmary between May 1983 and July 1986. The haemophilia centre was attached to Ward 23, which was the inpatient medical ward which dealt with

haemophiliacs. Due to the passage of time, my memory of my work there is poor.

8. This is the only time in my career that I have worked for a service providing haemophilia care. For the avoidance of doubt, I was not and am not a haemophilia or haematology specialist nurse. At that time, there were no clinical specialist nurses.

9. The haemophilia centre was set up to provide out-patient and home treatment to haemophiliac patients. The centre was new when I started there. I helped to set it up.

10. Dr Ludlam was the consultant physician and head of department. There were junior doctors working under Dr Ludlam. I do not remember their names.

11. When I started at the centre, I was the only nurse employed there. During my maternity leave, April 1985 to January 1986, a nurse was employed to cover for me.

12. As part of my induction, went to a haemophilia treatment centre in Oxford for a couple of days, and shadowed nursing staff. I also shadowed junior doctors at the centre, in order to learn phlebotomy (taking blood samples). Other than this, I did not have formal training in haemophilia care, but learned on the job.

13. My job was to administer the treatment prescribed by the doctor, and to take blood samples for testing as requested by the doctor. I only administered treatment in the centre, not in patients' homes.

14. I only remember adult patients at the centre. I think that some children probably were treated. If so, the treatment was administered by the doctors, not by me.

15. I have little memory of how the home treatment process worked. It was not part of my role to visit patients in their homes. I remember that patients receiving home treatment would sometimes contact me about any problem, and that I would pass the message on to the doctors. I cannot comment on the approach of senior clinicians at the centre to home treatment.

16. I was often present during consultations with the doctor, but played no part in the decision of what to prescribe. The treatments prescribed were factor 8, factor 9 and cryoprecipitate. I do not remember any other treatments being prescribed at the centre.

17. I would collect the factor 8, factor 9 and cryoprecipitate from the blood transfusion hatch. I remember that, from the start of my employment, the factor 8 and factor 9 was 'heat-treated'. While I did not have specialist knowledge of blood products, I understood that heat-treatment would reduce any risk of infection.

18. I did not know who was responsible for ordering blood products. I did not know where they came from.

Knowledge of risk

19. I was aware that there was a risk of infection from blood products, but believed this risk to be very low. I trusted those responsible for obtaining the blood products to guard against this risk, e.g. by choosing donors with care, testing donors as necessary, and heat-treating the blood products.

20. I assumed that they had been obtained though the Scottish Blood Donation Service from Scottish donors. At the time, it never crossed my mind that any products were being obtained commercially. However, I did not ask, and do not know whether any blood products were obtained commercially or not. I did

not have any training about the difference between commercially obtained blood products and NHS blood products.

21. At that time, I do not think that I had ever heard of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD). I had heard of AIDS, as a member of the general public. I do not remember having any specific training or instruction on AIDS or HIV in relation to haemophilia treatment. I knew that hepatitis could be transmitted by contact with an infected person's blood. I do not remember what we were told about hepatitis at the centre.

22. The only treatments I remember administering were heat-treated factor 8 and factor 9, and cryoprecipitate. I had little knowledge of the treatment-options. I cannot comment on the approach of the doctors to the use of blood products.

23. There were no 'standard operating procedures' at that time. I do not remember any of the written policies of the centre. We were, of course, required to use an aseptic technique when administering blood products.

Testing, treatment and care of patients

24. Treatment was prescribed to the patients after a consultation with a doctor. I was often present during these consultations, but do not remember what information about risk was provided to the patients, or what information about alternatives to treatment with blood products.

25. Consent to treatment was obtained by the doctor who prescribed the treatment. I was not trained in obtaining consent and was never instructed to do so.

26. I was never told to withhold information from patients about risks, treatment, testing, diagnosis or their condition. I can say this categorically.

27. I would take blood for testing. I understood that this was for routine monitoring of the patients' conditions. I do not remember the details, but would expect that we were testing for clotting factors and full blood count. Routine testing may or may not have included liver function tests; I do not remember. The blood results would go to the doctors. I was not qualified to interpret any of these blood results, and did not attempt to do so.

28. I do not remember any patient being tested for HIV/AIDS, hepatitis or Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. I believe that I would remember if I ever had been involved in testing a patient for any of these conditions.

29. Test results would be communicated to the patients by the doctors. I do not remember how they were communicated. I do not recall that there was any undue delay in communicating blood results.

30. To the best of my memory, no patient was diagnosed with HIV, AIDS, hepatitis or CJD while I was working at the centre. I cannot be certain that this did not happen, but I think I would remember if I had been personally involved with a patient who had a diagnosis of any of these conditions. I do not remember ever being involved with the treatment of a haemophiliac who had contracted a serious infection from haemophilia treatment, at any point in my career.

31. I do not remember what written policies were in place in the centre at the time for complaints and concerns. I was never involved in a patient complaint. I never raised any concerns about patient safety.

Research

32. I was not aware of what, if any, research was taking place at the centre. I do not remember being asked to participate in any research. I do not remember if

any of the blood samples I was asked to collect were connected with research.

33. I do not remember ever hearing the term 'PUPS' or 'previously untreated patients'.

Other issues

34. I do not remember any trusts or funds, set up to provide financial assistance to people who had been infected, at that time. To the best of my memory, I had no involvement with any organisation of that nature, and had no occasion to refer any patient to such an organisation.

35. I do not remember what polices were in place at the centre for the retention of medical records. As far as I know, nobody at the centre kept any separate records about patients.

36. I have never been a member of any committee, group, association, society or working party relevant to the committee's terms of reference.

37. I have not provided any evidence or been involved with any other inquiries, investigations or litigation in relation to HIV, hepatitis or CJD.

38. I have not had any discussions or conversations or interactions with senior clinicians at the centre about any of the issues in this statement.

The contents of this statement are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signed GRO-C

Dated: 28/3/20