

Witness Name: Debbie Waters

Statement No.: WITN7139001

Exhibits: None

Dated: 21/06/2022

## **INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY**

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### **FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF DEBBIE WATERS**

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I, Debbie Waters, will say as follows: -

1. I am the General Manager of the Medical Records Service at the University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust and have been in that position since 2005. I commenced work in the medical records department at the Leicester General Hospital, also managed by the Trust, in May 1991 and have worked continuously in the medical records department since 1991. Since 2005 I have had managerial responsibility for the medical records across all three hospitals managed by the Trust and which includes the Leicester Royal Infirmary (LRI).
2. I make this statement in response to a request from the Infected Blood Inquiry on the issue of what I understand to be an anonymous report to the Inquiry of the destruction by fire at the Leicester Royal Infirmary of certain medical records said to have occurred in recent years. I understand that no further details can presently be provided by the Inquiry to assist with my investigations into the anonymous allegations.
3. In making this statement I have drawn upon my own memory, the recollections of a number of colleagues, and the records of the Trust.
4. From my own memory I cannot recall a fire or flood or similar that has resulted in the loss of medical records. I can recall an incident when medical records were water

damaged following a sewage pipe leak but they were not destroyed. Copy records were made at the time and all medical records were preserved at this point. This event did not involve the Haemophilia Centre.

5. In 2001 the Trust obtained a database for recording incidents and their details. I am informed by our Fire Officer, Robert Hill, that following a search of this database he was unable to identify any details of a fire that destroyed medical records. There was a record of a fire on ward 29 at the LRI in July 2016 caused by a confused patient where it is recorded that paper towels were destroyed but there is no reference to medical records being destroyed on this occasion. It is also recorded that there was a fire on ward 8 at the LRI in 2011 but there is no reference to medical records being destroyed at this time.
6. I have also spoken with colleagues in the Haemophilia Centre which is based at the LRI to see if they were aware of any medical records being destroyed in a recent fire or flood or similar but they could not recall such an incident.

**Statement of Truth**

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

Signed 

GRO-C

Dated 21<sup>st</sup> June 2022