

**SMALLER HAEMOPHILIA CENTRES PRESENTATION**  
**LIVERPOOL WALTON HOSPITAL**

**Directors, status and relationship with other haemophilia centres**

1. Walton Hospital (“Walton” or “the Centre”), UKHCDO number 066, was a very small haemophilia centre. Dr Patricia Robb was director in the 1970s (see the documents referred to below, as well as the 24 October 1977 UKHCDO meeting minutes [PRSE0001002]). Dr PA Stevenson was director from 1980 [HCDO0001441].<sup>1</sup>
2. Dr McVerry, who was director at the Royal Liverpool Hospital (“RLH”) in 1980-1985, states that he “*had no involvement with any centre at the Walton Hospital*” and that he is “*not aware that there was such a centre*” [WITN3502007]. Other evidence indicates that the Centre was linked to RLH.
  - a. A report on a compensation claim by a patient infected with HIV records that the patient received “*immediate care*” from Dr Robb at Walton but that “*he was reviewed annually from 1977 onwards*” at RLH [DHSC0043164\_074].
  - b. A list of patients which would ordinarily have accompanied the Centre’s 1983 return recorded that none of them had been treated at Walton, including “*no home treatments*” and “*no new patients*”, and that all patients were now registered at RLH [HCDO0000155\_003].
  - c. The Centre did provide a return in 1984, though this was only to record that a visitor from Edinburgh had been treated; otherwise all of its previous patients were “*now managed at the Liverpool Royal*” [HCDO0001833].

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<sup>1</sup> See also the annual returns below, as well as a 1984 list of centres and directors [BPLL0010509].

3. No returns are available from 1985, and a 1990 list noted that Walton was no longer a centre [[HCDO0000119\\_138](#)]. A statement from a former patient explains that Walton has now been demolished [[WITN0691001](#)].

#### **Relationship with Regional Transfusion Centre and regional network**

4. The available documents indicate that Walton was supplied with blood and some blood products by Mersey RTC (also known as Liverpool RTC). A 1973 record shows that this included cryo [[DHSC0100026\\_064](#)]. Various documents also record blood being issued to Walton in the 1980s (for example [[NHBT0084589](#), [NHBT0084585](#), [NHBT0084577](#) and [NHBT0084563](#)]). The role of the Mersey/Liverpool RTC is addressed in more detail in the note on RLH.
5. Walton was part of a regional group of Mersey and North Wales haematologists (addressed in more detail in the notes on RLH and Alder Hey Children's Hospital). Dr Stevenson attended group meetings in November 1983 [[NHBT0100235\\_002](#)], March 1985 [[NHBT0100234](#)] and November 1985 [[NHBT0100233](#)]. During a discussion of cryosupernatant plasma at the November 1985 meeting, Dr Stevenson stated that there was "*still difficulty in obtaining an adequate supply of F.F.P. [fresh frozen plasma] for contingencies arising at Walton*" [[NHBT0100233](#)]. In a July 1997 letter, Dr Stevenson noted that he was "*the previous Chairman of the Mersey and North Wales Haematologists Group*" [[DHSC0004164\\_074](#)]. As with RLH and Alder Hey, Walton was part of the Manchester supra-regional network [[CBLA0000699](#)].

#### **Facilities and staffing**

6. Little information is available on Walton's facilities and staffing in the 1970s and 1980s. Dr Robert Carr, who undertook a senior registration rotation in haematology in Liverpool, has told the Inquiry that he was posted to Walton Hospital from August 1983 to July 1984 but that he did not see or treat patients with haemophilia [[WITN4677001](#)]. Dr Paula Bolton-Maggs was a part-time

senior registrar in haematology in Liverpool in 1987-1991, and has told the Inquiry that this involved four months at Walton in 1987 under Dr J Martindale and Dr Stevenson [[WITN4160001](#)].

7. Dr Travis was medical laboratory scientific officer in the transfusion department at Walton and was involved in completing the Centre's annual returns in Dr Robb's absence [[HCDO0001276](#)].

### **Numbers of patients treated and registered**

#### *Annual returns 1976-1984*

8. The available annual returns record the following figures for patients treated and registered at Walton:
  - a. 1976: 5 patients with haemophilia A were treated [[HCDO0000094](#)].
  - b. 1977: Walton treated 4 patients with haemophilia A and one patient with von Willebrand's [[HCDO0001179](#)].
  - c. 1978: the Centre treated 4 patients with haemophilia A [[HCDO0001276](#)].
  - d. 1979: Walton treated 3 patients with haemophilia [[HCDO0001345](#)].
  - e. 1980: the Centre treated 2 patients with haemophilia and one haemophilia A carrier [[HCDO0001441](#)]. The number of registered patients (including visitors) appears to have been: 10 with haemophilia A and one with von Willebrand's.
  - f. 1981: Walton treated 2 patients with haemophilia A [[HCDO0001543](#)]. The number of registered patients appears to have been: 9 with haemophilia A; one haemophilia A carrier; and one with von Willebrand's.
  - g. 1982: the return is unclear but seems to suggest that a haemophilia A carrier A patient was treated [[HCDO0001641](#)]. The number of registered patients seems to have been: 10 with haemophilia A; one haemophilia A carrier; and one with von Willebrand's.

- h. 1983: Walton did not treat any patients [HCDO0000155\_003]. A list appears to suggest that 9 patients with haemophilia A, one with von Willebrand's and several haemophilia A carriers were registered, but a manuscript addition notes that all of them were now registered at RLH.
- i. 1984: Walton treated one haemophilia A patient, who was a visitor from Edinburgh [HCDO0001833]. A list suggests that 10 patients with haemophilia A, one haemophilia A carrier and one with von Willebrand's were registered, but a manuscript addition explains that none were treated and that all were managed at RLH.

### **Treatment policies and blood product usage**

#### *Annual returns 1976-1984*

- 9. In 1976 Walton treated its haemophilia A patients only with cryo (18,900 units) [HCDO0000094].
- 10. In 1977 the Centre treated its haemophilia A patients with cryo (70,000 units) and NHS factor VIII (2,880 units) [HCDO0001179]. Haemophilia A patients on home treatment were supplied with 40,600 units cryo (it is unclear if this is in addition to or part of the 70,000 units). The Centre's von Willebrand's patients were treated with cryo (1,120 units).
- 11. In 1978 Walton treated its haemophilia A patients mainly with cryo (45,780 units) alongside some NHS factor VIII<sup>2</sup> [HCDO0001276]. It also used a small amount of fresh frozen plasma. The NHS factor VIII appears to have been provided to a patient on home treatment.
- 12. In 1979 Walton treated its haemophilia A patients primarily with cryo (55,440 units) as well as some commercial factor VIII (6,187 units of Factorate) [HCDO0001345].

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<sup>2</sup> The return reports 94 bottles representing 2,860 units. One of these figures must be a mistake, as they would otherwise involve only around 30 units per bottle. Given the figures in the preceding and following years' returns, it seems most likely that the figure for bottles is an error.

13. In 1980 the Centre's haemophilia A patients received cryo for home treatment (960 packs). A haemophilia A carrier was treated with cryo in hospital (172 packs) [[HCDO0001441](#)]. The number of registered patients (including visitors) appears to have been: 10 with haemophilia A and one with von Willebrand's.
14. In 1981 Walton's haemophilia A patients were treated with 660 (presumably packs) of cryo at home [[HCDO0001543](#)]. The number of registered patients appears to have been: 9 with haemophilia A; one haemophilia A carrier; and one von Willebrand's patient.
15. Walton's 1982 return is unclear but the Centre seems to have only treated a haemophilia A carrier patient with NHS factor VIII in hospital (45 bottles) [[HCDO0001641](#)].
16. No patients were treated in 1983 [[HCDO0000155\\_003](#)].
17. In 1984 Walton treated a haemophilia A patient with a nominal amount of cryo in hospital ("9 units") [[HCDO0001833](#)].<sup>3</sup>

### **Knowledge of risk of hepatitis and AIDS**

18. Very little information is available on the understanding of hepatitis and AIDS risks by Walton clinicians. In the second half of the 1970s, Dr Robb is recorded as having attended only the 24 October 1977 UKHCDO meeting, during which there was some discussion of hepatitis [[PRSE0001002](#)]. Dr Stevenson is not recorded as having attended any UKHCDO meetings in the 1980s. It may reasonably be assumed, however, that minutes of meetings would have been sent to them.

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<sup>3</sup> The amount is so low that the reference to "units" might be thought to be a typographical error, intended to refer to packs or bags. A manuscript note on p.2 states that the patient was a visitor with a 13% factor VIII level who was given 9 units of cryo to cover a procedure.

19. The Inquiry has received a statement from a patient infected with hepatitis C following a blood transfusion at Walton in 1981 [WITN0691001].<sup>4</sup>

**Other issues**

20. Cutter visited Walton in 1985 in order to promote its Gamimmune product [BAYP0000024\_149 and BAYP0000007\_113].
21. Walton was involved in the hepatitis C lookback scheme: see, for example, a 1995 letter regarding a transfusion in 1989 [NHBT0095481\_067].

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<sup>4</sup> Statements have also been provided by the patient's sister [WITN0806001] and partner [WITN0807001 and WITN0807002].