1 Wednesday, 26 May 2021 Q. Before we get onto your roles in The Haemophilia 1 2 2 Society, just to set the context, you yourself have (10.00 am) SIR BRIAN LANGSTAFF: Now, Mr Taylor, I'm going to invite 3 severe haemophilia A? 3 you to take the oath in a moment or two, just to 4 4 A. Correct. remind you that you're talking not just to those you 5 5 Q. And you've been co-infected with HIV and 6 6 see in front of you and those to your left and to me, hepatitis C --7 but also to a much wider audience, which will number 7 Correct. 8 probably over 200 around the country. By the country, 8 Q. -- as a result of blood products? 9 I mean the whole of the UK. 9 A. Yes. 10 SIMON HOWARD TAYLOR (sworn) 10 Q. You were a member of The Haemophilia Society for 11 **Questions by MS FRASER BUTLIN** 11 a number of years before you were co-opted onto the 12 MS FRASER BUTLIN: Mr Taylor, just before we start, 12 Executive Committee in 1985; is that right? 13 I understand you have your statement in front of you 13 A. Well, I hadn't really taken a very active role in the and some notes you may want to use to refresh your 14 Society before then. I, to some extent, got on with 14 15 memory from. 15 my life, and it was when HIV clearly became a threat 16 A. That's correct. 16 and I realised that I would probably be the very 17 17 Q. Is there a particular time period when you think your person it impacted, I sort of came forward to the 18 memory might be particularly limited? 18 Society because I had experience in communications, 19 A. What, historically? 19 public relations, lobbying, that kind of thing, 20 Q. Yes. 20 effectively to offer my services. 21 A. Yes, my memory during the sort of '90s in particular, 21 So 1985, when I got involved, that was the first 22 time I was -- really had contact and involvement with 22 from, sort of, the early '90s through to about '98, 23 23 '99, at that point I had -- I had HIV and, as the Society. 24 24 a consequence of my HIV infection, my memory is But before the co-option, were you a member of 25 somewhat impaired of that period but not totally. 25 the Society? 2 1 A. Yes, I probably was, yes. 1 A. Yes. 1 2 Q. Were you receiving publications from them, the 2 Q. Alongside that, you were working full time, as you 3 Bulletin and things like that? 3 say, in public relations, communications? 4 A. Probably but I don't really recall. 4 A. I worked in -- I was working very much full time in major public relations agencies where I had a senior 5 Q. You were co-opted in 1985? 5 6 6 A. Mm-hm. role, up until 1992, when, because of increasing ill 7 Q. Then elected onto the Executive Committee in 1986? 7 health, I stopped work and then became freelance. 8 8 A. Yes. Q. I'd like to start with when you were a member of the Q. And you served then until 1988? 9 9 Society, before you were co-opted. And you say in 10 A. That's right. 10 your statement that your perception of the Society at 11 Q. Then you served again between 1991 and 1996? 11 that time was that it was focused on providing 12 A. That's correct. 12 information and support to the haemophilia community, Q. And then again between 1998 and 2002? 13 13 is that right? A. That's right. A. That's correct, yes. 14 14 15 Q. In that final period, you were vice chair and 15 Q. Can you tell us what kind of information you received 16 treasurer during that time, the different --16 from the Society in that -- early '80s, late 17 17 A. The final period I was treasurer, I was vice chair in '70s/early '80s time? 18 the period between about 1994 to '96 but for the 18 A. To be honest, I -- very little. As I say, I'm not 19 period between '98 and 2002 I was -- for the whole of 19 sure that my -- funnily enough, my mother was 20 that period I was the treasurer. 20 a member, from the earliest days, and she would 21 Q. You were also a trustee of the McFarlane Trust --21 actually get the documents and I would quite often 22 22 A. Yes. then read them, but I don't recall that I was 23 23 Q. -- between 1988 and 1990. receiving regular documents before, much before that. 24 A. That's correct. 24 Q. The Inquiry has heard evidence about the Haemofact 25 Q. All of that was voluntary? 25 leaflets that were produced. 3 (1) Pages 1 - 4

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The Infected Blood Inquiry A. Mm. 1 probably even to this day, was to enable and empower 1 2 2 Q. Do you recall either you receiving them or hearing people with haemophilia, so that they could know what 3 3 about them from your mother? to expect from their medical and clinical 4 A. Um, yes, but not in a major way. I wouldn't say they 4 professionals and also to provide help and support if 5 were a major source of information to me. The major 5 they weren't getting it. So one of the things that 6 6 sources of information to me were what I was reading the Society did was to sometimes intervene on behalf 7 in the press, more than anything else at that point, 7 of patients, as it were, to help them if they had 8 8 a difficulty with a GP or a dentist or something like before I joined -- before I became a trustee. 9 9 Q. In your statement, you've said that many people with 10 haemophilia were isolated, and that often GPs, 10 Q. So in terms of the information being provided by the 11 dentists and other health professionals were 11 Society, to their members, what it was your sense of 12 frequently unequipped and often unwilling to provide 12 how much people were relying on that information? 13 13 appropriate help and support, and some people with What weight they were putting on that information? 14 haemophilia were treated by well meaning but inexpert 14 I would think not a lot is the short answer. It would 15 haematology consultants with very small cohorts of 15 be informative but the primary relationship was always 16 haemophilia patients? 16 with the treating physician. And because of the 17 17 A. That's correct. nature of haemophilia, I believe that people with 18 18 Q. And you say that the Society played a crucial role in haemophilia tended to have very close relationships 19 addressing some of those problems? 19 with their Centre Director and their Haemophilia 20 A. That's right. Yes. 20 Centre, and whilst it was information, I am not sure 21 Q. Was that in part by providing information to patients 21 or not convinced that people necessarily relied on it. 22 22 so that they knew what treatment they could expect and But it was to inform the conversation that they would 23 23 perhaps what the risks of treatment were? then have with their doctor. A. Absolutely. So one of the core functions of the 24 Q. So there was no sense at all of the Society trying to 24 25 Society at that time, and I would probably consider 25 replace the role of the doctor providing advice? 5 6 1 1 A. Absolutely not. We were all lay individuals. We had, Society was seeking to be an authoritative voice on 2 2 AIDS and haemophilia to both the members of the for the most part, no scientific or medical training. 3 Q. But, as a matter of fact, would it be fair to suggest 3 Society and the wider public? 4 that patients may have relied on the information to 4 A. Yes, I think that would be fair. As the article 5 5 some degree? points out, it was a time of alarmist media coverage, 6 6 and we would send things out to try and explain, to A. Yes. You know, obviously one can't speak for 7 individuals, other individuals. 7 reassure people that they couldn't pick up HIV or AIDS 8 8 Q. But that was your sense, both as a member and in that from, you know, sitting in a chair, for example, with 9 9 early period of -somebody else, and that kind of -- those kinds of 10 A. Yes. 10 things. Because there actually also -- I think it 11 Q. -- joining the Committee? 11 might be helpful -- there were very few others at that 12 12 stage, the Terrence Higgins Trust the Q. Could we have the document HCDO0000276\_033, please. 13 National AIDS Trust, those were very nascent at that 13 14 We can see this is the annual report of 1986. If we 14 15 can turn to page 7, please, Soumik, and the second 15 Q. So there was a sense of the Society needing to fill

16 paragraph down, we can see that there's discussion of 17 AIDS being the dominant theme of the last annual 18 report, and reference in this paragraph to the 19 attention given to AIDS by national newspapers. Then 20 in the last sentence of that paragraph, it says: 21 "A main responsibility of the Society has been 22 in seeing that errors of fact are corrected and 23 accurate information made available speedily to our

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members."

Would it be fair to say that in 1986, the

17 A. Yes. 18 Q. Could we then move forward to 1991, WITN4500002. We 19 pick up the 1991 Bulletin, the fourth Bulletin in 1991 20 talking about "The Essentials of Haemophilia Care", 21 and the launch of the new blueprint. The article 22 starts by discussing the NHS reforms, providing an 23 opportunity to set out a detailed standard for the 24 care of all people with haemophilia in the UK. 25 We can read on, and it says:

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a gap?

8 (2) Pages 5 - 8

"This care is normally provided at present by hospitals in health districts outside that where the individual lives, and so it has been necessary to explain to District Health Authorities ... what they should be buying and where that care should be provided."

Then the next column:

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"The Society's document, 'The Essentials of Haemophilia Care' has been produced in order to assist DHAs in their new task ..."

The paper goes on to give guidance on how DHAs should go about -- and it's the next column -contracting for these services.

So again, would it be fair to suggest that the Society in this example was seeking to be an authoritative voice in relation to haemophilia care and to educate District Health Authorities on what the Society believed to be the best treatment options?

A. Yes, that would have been produced in conjunction with the Haemophilia Centre Directors Organisation, who of course were the medical and clinical specialists. But the objective was to, as you say, make sure that District Health Authorities knew what they should be doing from a commissioning point of view and also again what patients should be able to expect from

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1 were expert in that particular area for advice. You 2 know, but ultimately, then the editor of The Bulletin 3 would work with the -- David Watters and the chairman 4 probably in the final copy, as it were.

Q. Could we have HSOC0019583, please. We have here a Bulletin from 1988. And it's the very first article, thanks being recorded for Clive Knight's lengthy time as editor of The Bulletin and other publications.

> In the second-to-last paragraph we see that it's noted he's:

"... continuing to serve on the Publications and External Relations Working Party so his experience and expertise will not be lost."

Were you also on that committee, that working party?

- 17 A. Quite possibly. I don't recall directly, but it is 18 quite possible, yes.
- 19 Q. And can you tell us anything of what involvement that 20 working party had in the production of The Bulletin? 21 Or other publications?
- 22 A. I don't recall specifically. Again, we might have 23 acted as sort of subeditors or contribute individual 24 articles but I don't recall particularly.
- 25 Q. Is it right, then, that the editor, the chairman and

1 their treating physicians.

Q. In your experience of being on the Executive 3 Committee, the Trustee Board as it became later, was 4 that something that carried on throughout your time, 5 of being -- seeking to be an authoritative voice both 6 for the members and for health bodies and for society

7 generally?

8 A. Yes. You know, one of our -- as a health charity, one 9 of our key roles was to advocate on behalf of our 10 community in order to achieve the best possible 11 standards of care, the latest forms of treatment, 12 those kinds of things. And sometimes -- I'm sure 13 we'll talk about it later -- you know, that came into

conflict over cost issues and things like that.

15 In terms of the mechanics of producing publications 16 for members, so The Bulletin that we've just looked at 17 and the Haemofacts that we've spoken of, we've heard 18 in other evidence that the Executive Committee had 19 very little involvement in what was put in them. Is 20 that your recollection as well?

21 It varied considerably. So it might well be that 22 a small group of the executive assisted with drafting 23 elements of it, but they would also work very closely 24 with specific clinicians. So if a document had 25 a specific remit then we would turn to clinicians who

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1 the coordinator were primarily deciding what articles 2 would be produced, but there might have been some 3 assistance from some Executive Committee members?

4 A. I think that's right. I think the editor would have 5 done most of the heavy lifting, as it were, in terms 6 of writing it. But suggestions from articles would 7 have come from other executive members, from local 8 groups. Individual members, even, would have 9 contributed articles or made suggestions as to 10 content, as it were.

11 Q. And when that content was clinical --

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Q. -- you said it would have come from a clinician? 13

A. Well, again, it varied enormously. So sometimes it 14 15 would have come from a -- directly from a clinician, 16 and there are many examples in the evidence of 17 articles by clinicians. If it was a more general 18 article, it might then be written by somebody else on 19 the Executive Committee and then run by a clinician to 20 be checked

21 Q. If an article was originally written by a clinician, 22 was there any checking of it by another clinician or 23 any form of double checking it?

24 A. No, not that I can recall. Sometimes there would be 25 a sort of consensus view. You know, if it was

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(3) Pages 9 - 12

The Infected Blood Inquiry 26 May 2021 1 a particularly important piece, a number of clinicians would always be at least a Centre Director. 1 2 2 might be asked for their input and contribution. Q. In your statement, you're clear that the Medical 3 3 Advisory Panel was an advisory panel? Q. And how would one know that from something one was 4 reading in The Bulletin? 4 A. Mm. 5 5 A. Probably credit would have been given. Q. And that the Society would make its own policy and 6 6 Q. So if it's authored by one doctor, would it be fair decision as it felt fit. Was that the position 7 that that article has probably been written by them 7 throughout your time on the Committee or did the 8 8 and not checked by anyone else? Society's interaction and approach with the panel 9 9 A. Probably. change over time? 10 Q. But if it's written perhaps by an Executive Committee 10 A. I draw a distinction between what I would call medical 11 member but credit is given to these number of doctors, 11 and scientific information, where we weren't competent 12 it's probably that there's been an input from those 12 to second-guess the Medical Advisory Panel, and issues 13 13 doctors to form a consensus view? relating, for example, to policy on some aspects of A. I don't recall directly but I think it highly likely. 14 treatment. So, for example, in the 1990s, as what 14 15 15 Q. With that input from the clinicians in medical became known as high-purity Factor VIII products came 16 articles, was that primarily from the Medical Advisory 16 in, and then in due course recombinant artificial 17 17 products, which we use now, came in, we were much more 18 18 A. No, not necessarily. It's -- they were quite often aggressive in calling for their introduction than the 19 the first port of call. But again, there may well be 19 Medical Advisory Panel or the Haemophilia Centre 20 clinicians who weren't -- didn't happen to be on the 20 Directors organisation were. So one might see, as 21 Medical Advisory Panel who we knew to have 21 I say, a slight disconnect in an area like that, but 22 22 a particular interest or expertise in a particular as far as sort of clinical -- sorry, in scientific 23 23 area. So it would almost all -- it would pretty well terms, then, you know, we weren't in a position to, as 24 24 always be a Centre Director of a Haemophilia Centre. I say, second-quess them. 25 Occasionally it might be a pure specialist, but it 25 Q. We're going to come on to the review of the Medical 13 14 1 Advisory Panel that took place in 1991 in just 1 mostly verbal. 2 2 Q. I'd just like to unpick a little more about the a moment, but in relation to the period before 1991 3 I think you've said that you had no direct dealings 3 clinical information that was in some of the Society's 4 with the panel at all during your tenure? 4 publications, and you've addressed the situation for 5 5 Not officially. I knew some of them personally or patients in some detail in your witness statement. 6 6 acquaintances with them but not officially. Could we put that up on the screen so everyone can see 7 Relationships were usually between the chairman or the 7 what we're looking at. It's WITN4500001 and it's 8 8 general secretary or with the staff, particularly. So paragraphs 22 and 23 to start with. 9 9 either David Watters or, in due course, Graham Barker. Page 5. Soumik. 10 They would have had the direct contact with them. 10 Here in paragraph 21 you've talked about: 11 Q. So can you help us with this: if the Executive 11 "Responding to the HIV impact on the haemophilia 12 Committee felt they needed advice on a particular 12 community created a huge range of tasks ..." issue, how did that reach the Medical Advisory Panel? 13 And then paragraph 22 and 23: 13 A. That would be delegated to probably David Watters or 14 "Initially the most urgent need from the 14 15 15 Graham Barker, who was the policy manager, and they community was for information on the threat, and 16 would seek advice from the Medical Advisory Panel. 16 support and advocacy in responding to it." 17 17 Q. And then how was the advice conveyed back to the 23: Committee? Did you ever get anything in writing from 18 18 "Reliable information was difficult to obtain, 19 the clinicians or was it -both because it was a new and emerging threat about

A. Yes.

Q. -- primarily verbal?

A. Again, it varied enormously depending on the nature.

So, again, I'm sure we'll cover it, but, you know, we

would get feedback at executive meetings or policy and

group meetings or whatever. But it would probably be

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19 20 which little was known, but also in the early days 21 there had been differences in opinion by clinicians as 22 to the impact on people with haemophilia." 23 24

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Could you expand on that for us, please? You say there were differences in opinion. What are you addressing there?

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(4) Pages 13 - 16

- A. I think it's an issue which I think the Inquiry has 1
- 2 looked at previously, in that there were -- and this
- 3 is slightly in retrospect, because the -- as I say,
- 4 I wasn't around in 1983/84, around about that period,
- 5 but there was -- appeared to me to be -- have been
- 6 a difference of opinion between some clinicians as to
- 7 whether or not HIV was a serious threat to people with
- 8 haemophilia or whether it was something that was going
- 9 to be confined to the gay and drug use community. And
- 10 also, there were issues about whether or not there
- 11 were -- because of the high level of treatment that
- 12 we'd had, whether that was going to impact. So there
- 13 was -- it was my perception that there were some --
- there had been some differences of opinion. 14
- 15 Q. And was that perception formed when you joined the
- 16 Society more substantially in 1985/86 or is this
- 17 a hindsight reflection?
- 18 A. I think it was -- no, I think it was around about that
- 19 time, because there was -- there was a lot of
- 20 confusion. There was a lot of uncertainty around the
- 21 whole issue of HIV. There was uncertainty about
- 22 its -- elements of its transmission and I just
- 23 remember that there was a lot of areas of uncertainty.
- 24 I can't remember detail.
- 25 Q. Were there discussions, then, within the

- 1 shortage of information from reliable sources, and
- 2 indeed, as a result of that, I and -- I haven't
- 3 mentioned it, but I and others from Terrence Higgins
- 4 Trust sought to set up the National AIDS Trust to
- 5 provide an authoritative source of information. You
- 6 know, there was information from doctors, but there
- 7 was no -- at that point, very many organisations who
- 8 were saying, you know, "You don't have to worry about
- 9 sharing your seat with somebody who has got HIV, you
- 10 don't have to worry about being in the same room as
- them, you don't" -- and we were dealing with a whole 11
- 12 range of issues, which again, clear in the evidence,
- 13 of children being discriminated against at school, of 14 people who, you know, were not getting medical
- 15 treatment because of their HIV status.

16 And that was the focus of our activities around 17 about that time, was trying to address and deal with

- 18 situations like that.
- 19 Q. I don't want to put words in your mouth --
- 20 A. No, I'm sure.
- 21 Q. -- but it sounds like you're describing quite a vacuum 22 of information.
- 23 A. Yes, it was a huge vacuum.
- 24 Q. Paragraph 25 of your statement indicates that from
- 25 your perspective the response to these issues was

1 Executive Committee meeting, or perhaps as the side

2 conversations over coffee afterwards, about those

- 3 difficulties?
- 4 A. Not particularly. I think the issue that really I'm
- 5 referring to there is actually probably in the -- you
- 6 know, the earlier paragraph, 22, you know, was core
- 7 information about how -- dealing with HIV. And that
- 8 was the key issue. So people needed to know, you
- 9 know, were other family members at risk? There was
- 10 a whole area about, as I say, transmission. And it
- 11 was those areas particularly I think that we were
- 12 concentrating on.
- Q. Were you aware of any discussions that reflected back 13
- 14 on the advice that the Society had given in '83?
- 15 A. No.
- 16 Q. This was primarily about what was happening in '85?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. You also say here that reliable information was
- 19 difficult to obtain. Can you give us anything more 20
  - specific on what you're dealing with here?
- 21 A. Again, this is just dealing with HIV specifically as
- 22 an issue. I can't recall exactly, even though I was
- 23 later very involved in Terrence Higgins Trust, when
- 24 that started up. I think it was '94, '95. But again,
- 25 they only had one member of staff. There was a real

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- 1 a need for regular and rapid communication of
- 2 information --
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. - from a trusted and independent source?
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- 6 Q. So would it be fair to suggest that the Society was
- 7 seeking to fill that vacuum --
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. -- with information?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Would it also be fair, therefore, to suggest that, by
- 12 filling that vacuum, that they were anticipating that
- 13 people would rely on the information they were being
- 14 provided with?
- 15 A. You give people information, it's for them to deal
- 16 with it. But, you know, we hoped they would.
- 17 Particularly, as I say, in response to HIV at that
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- 19 Q. How much of this information that you were providing
- 20 was coming from the Medical Advisory Panel, was coming
- 21 from clinicians?
- 22 A. It would all have been coming from clinicians. We
- 23 would have been, sort of, interpreting it, and turning
- 24 it into lay language which was accessible to people.

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So I mentioned there, for example, Dr Peter Jones who

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- 1 played a leading role in supporting us at that point, 2 and the publication that he is referred to there, AIDS 3 and the Blood. It was a very important document 4 which, in lay terms but in the context of haemophilia, 5 was made available to members so that they could 6 understand, as we knew it in 1985, you know, what 7 having HIV meant for them.
- 8 Q. In paragraph 23, you've spoken of there being 9 differences in opinion by clinicians. How did the 10 Society deal with those differences of opinion? Was 11 it a situation where the Society had to try to decide 12 what the consensus was likely to be, or ...
- 13 A. I think by '95, '96 --
- Q. '85, '86, I think. 14

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15 A. Sorry, '85, thank you -- '85, '86, you know, there was 16 less difference of opinion, as information on HIV 17 became more and more widespread. There was the first 18 AIDS conference, this became a topic at World 19 Federation of Haemophilia conferences, and so whilst 20 my recollection is that, for example, before 1985 21 there were various disparate thoughts going around, 22 from about that period onwards, and certainly the 23 period when I was a trustee, there was much more of 24 a solid consensus on issues relating to HIV and 25 haemophilia.

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a Panel at all. It was felt that it was sometimes difficult for members of MAP to take off their Centre Directors' hats and give independent advice."

Then paragraph 3:

"It was agreed that the Society needs advice and information on the latest medical and scientific developments in the fields of both treatment and research. This advice is needed on both an informal and formal level.

"Informal advice is helpful in formulating policy and in developing information and advice for members. Given on an informal basis this advice is likely to be more independent and less likely to reflect a possibly false consensus view of the Centre Directors Organisation."

Now, before I ask you in detail about that document you've actually already addressed it -you've already addressed it in your witness statement. Again, it may be useful to have the paragraph on screen so we can all see it. It's paragraph 71 of the statement, WITN4500001, page number 14, paragraph 71. You've said here:

"There was a belief by the Society that it desperately needed independent, unbiased, expert medical and scientific advice on the huge issues

1 Q. When you became a trustee in 1986 and you'd been 2 co-opted in 1985, was there any reflection or 3 discussion about the difference of opinions that had 4 been in existence before your time?

- 5 A. Not that I'm aware of. You know, it might be worth 6 pointing out that most of the trustees at that time 7 had themselves HIV, and so they would have been 8 thinking about their own situation. But I'm not aware 9 of any formal discussions or even informal 10 discussions
- 11 Q. Soumik, could we have HSOC0010470, please. This is 12 a different document to my reference. If I could just 13 have a moment.

I'm sorry, Soumik, my fault. HSOC0010277. We're picking up a document in relation to the Medical Advisory Panel review in 1991. Paragraphs 2 and 3 are what I want to look at:

"The starting point for this review was the concern felt by Society representatives attending MAP that some of the meetings were not a productive use of their time. There was a feeling that on occasions both the Medical and Society members of the Panel felt disappointed with the substantive outcomes from the meeting. This raised the question as to whether there was possibly no need to have regular meetings or even

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1 facing the Society. Conversely, there was a belief 2 amongst members of the MAP that it saw itself as 3 representing their Haemophilia Centres to the Society. 4 Consequently, issues such as the cost of new products,

> concerns about potential liability and legal actions, and the innate conservatism of many of the clinicians, mitigated against them giving honest independent advice to the Society. There was a view that they

tended to: 'cover their backs' by taking an overly 10 conservative view of emerging threats; prioritising 11 issues such as costs and funding; and avoiding

breaking the 'consensus view' of their peers." Was that a reflection of the particular concerns

in 1991, or was it a reflection of concerns that had been ongoing over a period of time?

16 A. It was ongoing over a period of time, and I noted from 17 the date of the earlier document that I probably 18 wasn't actually a trustee at that point. However, I 19 think there was certainly a sort of conflation between 20 the role of the Medical Advisory Panel, and the 21 Haemophilia Centre Directors Organisation, and I think 22 that, as I say in my statement, that we weren't 23 necessarily convinced that we were getting from MAP as

> a body, necessarily the most helpful information. We would get it usually from an individual who

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(6) Pages 21 - 24

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- 1 might be a member of the Medical Advisory Panel, but
- 2 I think, as a group, it wasn't at that point, I think,
- 3 terribly good at sort of coming to a consensus view,
- 4 and I think they were influenced by other factors,
- 5 which was one of the reasons why we had the review at
- 6 that point, and we changed the structure, to some
- 7 extent, of the Medical Advisory Panel, and I think
  - made a clearer distinction between the HCDO as the
- 9 Centre Directors running Haemophilia Centres, and the
- 10 medical panel.

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- 11 Q. You've talked about the Society desperately needing
- 12 independent advice. Was it the sense of the Society
- 13 that they -- that prior to 1991 they hadn't received
- 14 truly independent advice?
- 15 A. I think my use of the word "independent" is outside
- 16 the Executive Committee.
- 17 Q. What do you mean by that?
- A. I mean, we needed advice -- we needed advice from 18
- 19 people who were not trustees of the Society.
- 20 Q. So you're discussing here the Medical Advisory 21 Panel --
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. -- and are you suggesting, or were you meaning to say,
- 24 that the Society -- that the Executive Committee
- 25 hadn't received independent advice from the Medical

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1 A. Yes.

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- 2 Q. Your statement goes a little further than just that it
  - wasn't independent, but that it wasn't honest,
- 4 independent advice. Can you unpack that for us? What
- 5 were you particularly thinking there?
- 6 A. I think, again, as I say later on in that paragraph,
  - I think there was a tendency to tone down their advice
- 8 or -- rather than necessarily tell us everything that
- 9 they thought, that was a sense I had. I can't prove
- 10 it, but it was the sense that I had, and I think other
- 11 members of the executive had, and we would sometimes,
- 12 as I say, outside an MAP meeting, not that I was
- 13 directly involved in those meetings, but talking to
- 14 a clinician separately or independently one might get
- 15 a slightly more forceful view or a more detailed view.
- 16 I think that's my interpretation.
- 17 **Q.** Final point on this paragraph, Mr Taylor, you also
- 18 talk about them "covering their backs". Again, that's
- 19 quite striking language. What were you meaning by
- 20 that? What were they covering their backs in relation 21
- 22 A. I can't remember specifically but, again, my sense
- 23 was, as I say there, that they took a more
- 24 conservative view. I think it's ... and, you know,
- 25 they avoided trying to break a consensus. So I think

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- Advisory Panel, that the Medical Advisory Panel hadn't 1 2 given truly independent advice?
- 3 A. Well, I think that, as I say there, that they -- in
- 4 the context of the Medical Advisory Panel, I think
- 5 they tended to, as I say, quite often take
  - a conservative position if they wanted to try to get
- 7 a consensus. As I say, we tended to get, I think,
  - better information by talking to people on
- 9 an individual basis where they weren't having their
  - peers peering, dare I say, over their shoulders.
- Q. Was that a reflection -- sorry, to go back to the 11
- 12 question, but was that a reflection of the situation 13 going all the way back through to the late '70s, early
- 14 '80s?
- 15 A. I can't -- I don't know. But it was my -- I think
- 16 there are two things. I think also the evidence, the
- 17 documents I've seen show that there was remarkably
- 18 little turnover in the Medical Advisory Panel, that
- 19 the people who intended to be on there had been on
- 20 there for a very long time, which I think was probably
- 21 unhealthy. But I can't comment on what it was
- 22 earlier, but that's definitely a sense that I got from
- 23 sitting on the Executive Committee.
- 24 Q. And that was not just your view but the view of the
- 25 whole Committee?

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- 1 they were, you know, they would take the sort of --
- 2 a slightly more lower common denominator approach to 3
  - things.
- 4 SIR BRIAN LANGSTAFF: Just on that, if I may, an overly
  - conservative view of emerging threats mightn't, on the
- 6 face of it, be covering one's back. One might have
- 7 thought that taking any emerging threat seriously
- 8 might be the way to cover one's back.
- 9 A. Indeed.

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- 10 SIR BRIAN LANGSTAFF: So by talking about covering one's
- 11 back, you're not really speaking here, are you, given
- 12 your last answer, of having a conservative view of
- 13 emerging threats, so much as worry about breaking
- 14 ranks. Is that the point?
- 15 A. Well, I think, again, there would be a wide range of
- 16 issues, so that the application of this would vary by
- 17 situation to situation. So for example, in 1991, you
- 18 know, hepatitis was becoming an emerging threat, and
- 19 becoming an emerging issue, which it had not. It
- 20 might have been -- and again, I'm sure we'll cover
- 21 this in due course -- that they took a more
- 22 conservative view than might have been warranted. But
- 23 I think -- you couldn't apply these comments
- 24 necessarily to every single situation that we were
- 25 dealing with, with the MAP. It would have varied.

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- But it was -- I'm reflecting there a sense that I think I and other members of the Executive had.
- SIR BRIAN LANGSTAFF: Yes, it was really just the
   combination of covering their backs by doing
   something. I can understand covering backs and taking
   an overly conservative view, but ask ...
- 7 A. Maybe I was a little sloppy in my writing
- 8 SIR BRIAN LANGSTAFF: No, it's your writing and I'm just
   9 trying to understand it.
- 10 A. No, I think it was -- as I say, I think it was -- we 11 had a number of different things going on at the same 12 time. So in some cases they would not want to break 13 the consensus view. In other cases they might take 14 a more conservative approach than we would take, 15 because we would feel on the frontline of emerging 16 threats. And, you know, it's possible we would come 17 out of an interaction with them thinking: well, are 18 they taking this seriously enough? And sometimes 19 being conservative is a way of, you know, not raising 20 your head above the parapet and, as I say, taking the
- 22 SIR BRIAN LANGSTAFF: No, that's quite helpful. Thank you.

easy approach. I don't know if that helps.

24 A. Thank you.

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25 MS FRASER BUTLIN: I want to move on now to the

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- 1 I hadn't had any interaction with them, I didn't know 2 them, they didn't know me particularly, or know that I 3 existed, and so I made myself known to them and said, 4 you know, "Can I help?"
- Q. So how would other members of the Society have been
   able to influence what the campaign would be or how
   the campaign would be run? Was there any opportunity
   for members to shape it?
- 9 A. Yes. There were interactions. So, for example, the 10 annual meeting, council meetings which were held, 11 I believe if I recall, twice a year, you know, which 12 was when sort of ordinary members, if we could use 13 that term, and representatives of groups would meet 14 with the Executive Committee. So they'd have an 15 opportunity at that point. But I think, also, an 16 awful lot of members were in touch with the Society on 17 a sort of -- through correspondence and telephone 18 calls. Apart from asking for information and help, 19 I think they would have been saying, you know, we need 20
- to do something about this.
  Q. You also say in your state that the Committee was informed by political, legal, and the medical advice given on a personal basis, ie, outside the formal structure of the MAP, the Medical Advisory Panel, in relation to the campaign.

1 HIV campaign.

- 2 A. Mm-hm.
- Q. What was the Society campaigning for when you joined
   in 1985? What status was the campaign at at the point
   that you joined?
- 6 There wasn't really a campaign when I joined. And 7 indeed, one of the reasons I joined was particularly 8 for that very reason: you know, professionally, my 9 professional experience was in communications. 10 public relations, political lobbying, and one of the 11 reasons I came forward was because I felt that that 12 could be helpful to the Society. And I think at that 13 point there wasn't really -- it was still a question 14 of coming to terms with this amazing -- this awful, 15 dreadful thing that had happened. And so it was 16 probably opportune time for me to get involved, to
- help develop, start develop campaigning.

  Q. Just in terms of how you got involved, did someone come and talk to you and say, "Look, we'd love to have you", or was there something in The Bulletin that you looked at and thought: gosh, I could be really helpful? As an ordinary member, how did you make that transition onto the Committee?
- A. I got in touch with the general secretary,
   David Watters, and said, "Hello, here I am". Because

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- What medical advice did the Committee receive in relation to the campaign?
- A. I particularly -- thinking there, again, of the work
   that Peter Jones did in producing supporting materials
   that were used in the campaign. And again, there were
   documents in the evidence of what the impact was on
   people with haemophilia. So -- which we could then
   use with opinion formers for media, politicians,
   people like that.
- 10 Q. Did clinicians have any role in saying what the11 Society should campaign for?
- 12 A. No

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13 Q. Could we turn to HSOC0023211, please, Soumik.

We have here an agency brief that you wrote together with David Watters in February 1987. And if we turn to page 2, we can see under the heading "Legal Remedy" where it's said:

"A limited number of legal actions have been started in the United States against commercial manufacturers of blood products. Those cases are not supported by the National Haemophilia Foundation (the US equivalent of the UK Haemophilia Society) as it is envisaged that this could bring about problems with the supply of concentrates in the United States. Indeed, the concern is that the manufacturers might

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withdraw from the production altogether. While it is the case that in the UK the Central Blood Laboratories Authority produce a considerable amount of concentrates under the National Health Service, this amounts to any (currently) 22% of the UK requirement."

Was that concern about supply of concentrates something that was discussed at the Executive Committee in 1987 in relation to whether legal action should be pursued?

10 A. I don't recall -- no, I don't recall.

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11 Q. In the next paragraph, there's reference to counsel's 12 opinion having been taken on -- in relation to whether 13 action could be taken on behalf of all the people with 14 haemophilia who were HIV antibody positive. And the 15 indication is that those actions could not succeed in 16 the majority of cases and that a class action wouldn't 17 be possible.

> Again, why was this put into an agency brief for the campaign? What was the -- why is this put in, in such a central part of it?

21 Well, this was a brief to potential public relations 22 or lobbying agencies, to help with the campaign. And 23 it was important that, as one aspect of that campaign, 24 first question which an agency might have asked would 25 have been: well, what about legal action? So it was

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- 1 A. Yeah.
- 2 Q. -- that went to the Government? Could we look at 3 that? HSOC0003459, please. My understanding is that 4 you were quite heavily involved in preparing this 5 submission; is that right?
- 6 A. Yes, yes.

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Q. If we turn to the first substantial page, the second page of the pdf, we can see the heading "Summary", and in the fourth paragraph down, we see that it's written that:

"At Government's suggestion the Society has already explored the question of redress through the legal system ..."

Can you tell us about who in the Government had suggested that the Society should explore legal

- 17 A. Every civil servant and every minister that we spoke 18 to. So, for example and I think I cite, this was 19 repeatedly -- if this was raised in Parliament, the 20 ministerial replies would always be "compensation is 21 a matter for the courts".
- 22 Q. The paragraph then goes on to say that:

"... [the Society] has been advised that claims for compensation as such are most unlikely to succeed because of the difficulty of proving negligence. In

important to explain our understanding at the time of where we were with legal action.

And the whole question of litigation over this period obviously became a key issue, and so it was important to brief them on what we understood to be the background and, therefore, why a political campaign, focusing on the moral argument, would probably be more important and was required, rather than just relying on litigation.

- 10 Q. The two paragraphs we've just looked at make it clear 11 that the Society had counsel's opinion that's 12 negative, but was it also part of the Society's 13 thinking that they didn't want to encourage litigation 14 because they --
- A. No. 15
- 16 Q. -- were concerned about the supply of blood products?
- 17 A. No, I don't recall that at all. I think -- no,
- 18 I don't recall that.
- 19 Q. The campaign got started in the spring of 1987 --
- 20 A. Mm-hm.
- 21 -- and then there was some delay because of the 22 General Election.
- 23 A. Mm-hm.

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24 Q. But in the October 1987, a submission was put together 25

by the Society, wasn't it --

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any case, the Society is advised that any solution which may be provided by the courts will not be available in the short term. However, the needs of families are immediate."

> What was the thinking behind putting in a submission to the Government, the fact that the Society had received negative legal advice?

8 A. Because we needed to make it absolutely clear that the 9 legal advice -- sorry. The Government's position that 10 we should pursue a litigation approach, frankly, was 11 an abdication of their responsibilities and it was, to 12 some extent, a sort of 'Get out of jail' card. 13 Because they knew very well that people were dying, 14 and that, by the time the litigation was complete, 15 there would be many, many deaths, and that wasn't 16 going to be an appropriate solution.

So it was important for us to say to the Government: what you are suggesting is not reasonable or realistic in providing support for people who urgently need it now.

21 It could be suggested that by telling the Government 22 "We don't have a legal case", that the legal advice is 23 negative, that was strengthening their hand in any 24 negotiations because there wasn't the threat of 25 litigation behind it. What would your response to

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36 (9) Pages 33 - 36

1 that be? Was that something you discussed and thought 1 we had the litigation actions taking place but we also had the political media and moral campaign going on at 2 2 about? 3 A. I don't recall specifically whether or not we 3 the same time. So we were effectively attacking from 4 discussed it but, I would say, the -- it was really 4 both sides. 5 5 important, because they wanted us to go to court Q. This was in October 1987. 6 because they knew that it would take years, it would 6 7 be very difficult to prove, and we had to say that, as 7 Q. It was really quite a short campaign in the autumn --8 I say, they were being disingenuous in suggesting 8 9 this. And we had to say it, not just -- this was not 9 Q. -- because on 16 November 1987, as we know, the fund 10 a submission just to Government, this was a submission 10 of £10 million was announced? 11 and a briefing to our politicians of all parties. And 11 A. Indeed. 12 in order to build a consensus, a coalition, rather, of 12 Q. After the money was announced to set up what became 13 support, it was important to say the Government have 13 the Macfarlane Trust, you've described that there was 14 said this the route we should go down, it's a false then to be a second stage of campaigning --14 A. Mm. 15 route, and that we need help now and there is 15 16 a political and moral argument that they should meet. 16 Q. -- for further monies. 17 Q. There were some members of the Society who were 17 A. Mm. 18 litigating? 18 Q. Is that right? 19 A. Absolutely. 19 A. Yes. 20 Q. Was there any consideration given to whether this 20 Could we turn to HCDO0000276\_043, please, Soumik. We 21 would undermine their position in the litigation? 21 can see the headline of The Bulletin, it's the fourth A. I think the view was that it wouldn't really make any 22 Bulletin of 1987 "It's a start", and as we go through 22 23 23 difference because the law would be what the law was. the article, we can see that there's three points that 24 24 This was a political campaign and, as became clear are made: 25 after 1987, the two ran in parallel, effectively. So 25 "Firstly, the justice of the Society's call for 37 38 Q. Let's look at that together. HSOC --1 recompense has been acknowledged." 2 2 Then further down the next paragraph: A. Sorry, could I just add? 3 "Secondly, the allocation of £10 million from 3 Q. Of course. 4 the Treasury to meet some of the financial needs of 4 A. The phrase "It's a start" implied that from day one we those affected is a timely, flexible and compassionate recognised that this was going to be insufficient, and 5 5 6 6 gesture from the Government." it was. It was a totally insufficient and inadequate 7 Then the next paragraph: 7 amount of money. But it was a foot in the door. It 8 8 "Thirdly, the fact that the fund has been given was a recognition of the moral case that we had put, 9 9 into the control of The Haemophilia Society to and that we would be back for more. 10 administer is attribute to the esteem in which the 10 Q. And that's what I want to pick up with you, Mr Taylor. 11 Society is held by the public and the Government." 11 A. Okay. 12 The article carries on to the final page of The 12 Q. If we can turn to HSOC0019910. 13 Bulletin which we don't particularly need to go to, 13 It's dated 14 December 1987, so very quickly 14 but there's nothing in the article that sets out what 14 after the announcement. It's the Haemofact 17, "The 15 will happen next with the campaign, at this point. 15 Campaign Continues", and if we go to the last page of 16 A. No. 16 the document, page 4, I think -- that's it -- we can 17 Q. Had there been any discussions at that stage --17 see the three points that the campaign is going to be 18 18 A. Um -focused on: 19 -- about what we're --19 "The continuing need for a special weekly 20 A. Not that -- you know, we're talking about a really 20 benefit 21 short period of time. We're talking about, you know, 21 "The need to speed up DHSS procedures for 22 22 dealing with claims for Attendance Allowance and other a few weeks. And our focus was very much on, you 23 23 know, how do we now -- how do we now respond? I think Social Security benefits." 24 24 that a few months later, then we started thinking And thirdly: 25 about the next stage. 25 "The importance of provision for life insurance

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and mortgage protection."And then the note:

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"In future, the Government has left the door open for us to approach them if it becomes apparent that our needs have not been met. We are confident that in further representations to the Secretary of State we shall receive the same consideration as at our earlier meeting."

Is it fair to say that at this point in time the Society was not immediately saying, "We need more money", but the understanding was that if it was needed then it would be forthcoming?

A. We weren't -- it wasn't guaranteed. And we didn't really know. I think we might have been seeking to put words in the minister's mouth, shall we say, by saying that they would -- you know, they would come back with more. And the campaign, and the requirements of the campaign, developed a bit more over time, as we had more time. But as I say, you know, in November and December of 1987, there was -- we were sort of overwhelmed with an awful lot of logistical issues, just dealing with literally -- you know, I remember the general secretary receiving a cheque, and thinking: what do I do with a cheque for £10 million? So it was quite nuts and boltsy at that

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- 1 "You have said" -- in the future to say, you know,
- "You have said that, you know, there might be moremoney available."
- 4 Q. As you say, you were a trustee of the Macfarlane Trust5 from 1988 to 1990?
- 6 **A.** Mm-hm.
- Q. In your statement you've said you felt you had to
   balance the desire to be generous with the need to
   preserve the capital of the fund.
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Why did you consider that the capital of the fund had12 to be preserved?
- A. Because we hadn't had a firm assurance that more money would be made available. And that wasn't made
  available -- that wasn't made, I believe, until
  a meeting, as I say, I think two years later, where
  the Government said, "Yes, we will provide additional funds". So we had to take, to some extent,
- 19 a precautionary approach with the capital.
- Q. But by taking a precautionary approach, did that not
   perhaps mean that the Government wouldn't realise that
   there was greater need? Was there any discussion
   about that?
- A. No. Well, I think the -- again, we had to make
   a balance, as I think I said, between being sort of --

stage, as well as dealing with our members, who were saying "Well, when am I going to get my money?" kind of thing.

4 So it developed. But we weren't -- whilst we 5 hoped very much that we would get more money, and I'm 6 sure feel talk about the Macfarlane Trust maybe later, 7 you know, we -- that wasn't clear until actually 8 two years later, I believe, where -- where they did 9 say yes, there will be some more money, first of all, 10 for the Macfarlane Trust. And we then went on to 11 discuss and call for more substantial payments, which 12 came through in due course.

- Q. The wording on this document that we're looking at suggests that there has been some indication from the Government that there would be more money. Is that not quite what was happening, or is this is an accurate representation of the discussions you were having?
- A. Well, I wasn't directly involved in the discussions and I hadn't been involved in the discussion with the Secretary of State, so I wasn't in a position to say that. But I think -- I think we were expressing, as I say, a strong hope, and we were expressing -- we might be putting an interpretation on it, as I say, partly to put more pressure on the Government, to say,

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- showing the Government that we were being responsible custodians and therefore worthy of more money, whilst at the same time the Society keeping the political pressure up, that additional funds should be made available.
- Q. In your statement you've described that -- you've
   described that:

"The [Macfarlane Trust] was independent of the Government, however the [Macfarlane Trust] was mindful to ensure that the Government was content in the way the Trust was being operated, particularly in order to be in a good position to seek additional funding for the ongoing work of the Trust."

Would you say that the Trust, by and large, saw itself as implementing decisions of the Department of Health, or were they independent of it?

17 A. No, we were independent. We made our own decisions. 18 But as I say, we weren't certain at that point, for 19 the first year or two, whether additional funding 20 would be made available. And so we, as I say, had to 21 balance generosity with -- with, you know, if we don't 22 get any more money, then we need to make sure that 23 there is funds ongoing for some considerable time. We 24 couldn't guarantee it until, as I say, that other 25 meeting in 1989 where I believe the minister agreed

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- that there would be additional funding. That changed the situation for the Macfarlane Trust and we then realised that additional regular funding would probably become available and that could change the situation and the way that the Trust worked.
- Q. In seeking to ensure that the Government was content
   with how the Trust was operating, was the Trust then
   constrained in what it did?
- A. I wouldn't say that, but it was important that we were
   being seen to act responsibly, you know, with proper
   procedures, that kind of thing, is really what I'm I think we're getting at.
- 13 Q. Did it impact on that decision about how generous the14 Trust could be?
- A. Well, we could have just given away all the money, but
   if -- as I say, without a guarantee of additional
   funds then that would not necessarily have been in the
   best interests of the beneficiaries, if we'd sort of
   blown the cash, as it were.
- 20 Q. You spoke a moment ago about the Macfarlane Trust21 administering the money --
- 22 A. Yes.
- Q. -- and the Society putting the pressure on the
   Government to increase the funding.
- 25 A. Mm.

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considering the extent to which matters relating HIV and AIDS should feature in the Bulletin and Update. Some readers have suggested that these topics receive too much attention in these pages.

"Since the advent of AIDS, the Haemophilia Society as a whole has made strenuous efforts to maintain a 'One Society' approach for people with haemophilia -- with and without HIV."

about publications. First of all, can you tell us how

It goes on to discuss what they're going to do

the Society came to hear those comments from members, how was the Society aware of those different concerns?

A. I would guess that that would have been through telephone calls, correspondence to the office and to the officers. So that would have been to the chairman and to David Watters, people -- there were a lot of people, a lot of our members, who either because they were not directly affected by HIV or, indeed, if they were affected, found the coverage in the Society's publications what we would now call triggering, and were -- felt that, as I say, as the article -- as the editorial says, that we were placing too much emphasis

I think it's particularly true of cases of -- we had a lot of -- the Society particularly has always 47

Q. In relation to the Society, with the benefit of
 hindsight, do you think they did enough to press for
 more financial support in relation to the Macfarlane
 Trust?

- A. I would think yes, because the money came. We got the money. Which is the bottom line.
- Q. Do you think they could have done more to get it morequickly?
- quickly?A. Political campaigns are uncertain. I think that
- 11 I don't think the Government was going to come back

a two-year period, the Government wasn't going --

- more quickly than, as I say, a two-year period.
- 13 They've said well, you know, "We've given you
- 14 £10 million, get on with that", as it were. So
- 15 I think it would have been highly unlikely that the
- 16 Government would have moved any more quickly,
- 17 regardless of what the Society or anybody else had
- 18 done.
- Q. I just want to explore one further aspect in relation
   to the Society. Could you turn with me to -- sorry,
   Soumik could we have HCDO0000279\_004, please. I'd
- 22 just like to go to page 2, please. This is
- 23 a bulletin, the first Bulletin of 1989 and we can see
- 24 in the first two paragraphs, it says:
  - "The Editorial Board has recently been

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- 1 catered for families with young children with
- 2 haemophilia and because of the nature of the
- 3 condition, if you have a child with haemophilia,
- 4 particularly if it's not been in the family, you know,
- 5 then the family want help and support. And so I think
- 6 there was a feeling that lots of talk about HIV and
- 7 things like that was not necessarily family friendly.
- 8 So -- but as I say, there was some pushback but we
- 9 felt that we should keep the balance and, you know, we
- 10 had a duty to cover these sorts of issues.
- 11 Q. This is obviously talking about the publications?
- 12 A. Yes
- 13 Q. Had there also been some pushback about the campaignthat had been run?
- 15 A. Yes, indeed. And the -- there were, you know,
- 16 elements of the membership who felt that the whole
- 17 high profile that -- or the connection that
- haemophilia had with HIV was unhelpful, because again,
- 19 as I've said elsewhere in my statement, haemophilia
- 20 became, in the public perception, a marker for having
- 21 HIV or AIDS. And so people who had haemophilia were
- 22 finding themselves subject to discrimination and
- 23 stigma. Just for having haemophilia. Let alone
- 24 having HIV or AIDS.

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And so there were -- you know, there were quite

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profile. And this happened again in years to come over hepatitis as well. You know, they wanted to just quiety get on with their lives of having haemophilia. Q That's one side of the spectrum. Were there others at the their end of the spectrum who were seeking greater the their end of the spectrum who were seeking greater the campaigning work from the Society? In relation to HIV; well come to hepatitis later.  A Um, yes. And we had that constant balancing act between people with HIV who felt that we should be the their were endedy doing too much. And as trustees, we had to balance those, and one never tell felt that we were already doing too much. And as trustees, we had to balance those, and one never to myletely succeeds.  MS FRASER BUTLIN: I want to turn to the hepatitis project team that was set up in September 1991.  This is an internal memo dated 30 October 1991, indicating that: I indicating that: I rustees, we had to balance those, and one never to felt that we were already doing too much. And as trustees, we had to balance those, and one never a different topic and I see the time. I wonder to whether now is a good time to take the morning break.  MS FRASER BUTLIN: Sir, I'm about to move on to a different topic and I see the time. I wonder whether now is a good time to take the morning break.  MS FRASER BUTLIN: Sir, I'm about to move on to a different topic and I see the time. I wonder whether now is a good time to take the morning break.  MS FRASER BUTLIN: Sir, I'm about to move on to to a different topic and I see the time. I wonder whether now is a good time to take the morning break.  MS FRASER BUTLIN: Sir, I'm about to move on to to a different topic and I see the time. I wonder whether now is a good time to take the morning break.  MS FRASER BUTLIN: Sir, I'm about to move on to to a different topic and I see the time. I wonder whether now is a good time to take the morning break.  MS FRASER BUTLIN: Sir, I'm about to move on to to a different topic and I see the time. I wonder whether now is a good
quietly get on with their lives of having haemophilia. Q. That's one side of the spectrum. Were there others 1 5 (11.46 am) the other end of the spectrum who were seeking greater campaigning work from the Society? In relation to 7 MS FRASER BUTLIN: I want to turn to the hepatitis project HIV. we'll come to hepatitis later. 8 However people with HIV who felt that we should be 10 This is an internal memo dated 30 October 1991. 10 doing much more, and people who did not have HIV who 11 indicating that: 11 felt hat we were alteady doing too much. And as 12 "Althe first meeting to the project team trustees, we had to balance those, and one never 13 lagreed to write to [Professor] Preston, Dr Hay, Dr Lee and Dr Mayne to test out the ideas we generated at trustees, we had to balance those, and one never 13 lagreed to write to [Professor] Preston, Dr Hay, Dr Lee and Dr Mayne to test out the ideas we generated at comments. Sir, I'm about to move on to 15 at our meeting." 16 a different topic and I see the time. I wonder 16 Then if we go over the page we have the letter 17 whether now is a good time to take the morning break. 17 that was sent out, and it's dated 23 September 1991. 18 SIR BRIAN LANGSTAFF: Yes, it is. We'll take a break 18 We can see that this letter has gone to Dr Hay, and it says that: 19 Until quarter to 12. 19 and it says that: 20 Now, Mr Watters [sic], you may have been 21 question of hepatitis and haemophilia. As a first occasion that there's a break, a first break anyway, 22 stage we have set up a project leam to identify possible areas of action and I am writing to you to 3 discuss the evidence help have given, or may yet be 24 seek your comments and views on our initial ideas." 20 September 1991 was when the Executive Committee 1 a small proportion (15%?) of cases would this result in cirrhosis of the liver, causing death in a few 2 canses. What are the head problems facing the 24 cases. What are the leaded problems facing the 24 cases what a consequences. Would that accord with your 2 majority? W
the other end of the spectrum. Were there others at the other end of the spectrum who were seeking greater campaigning work from the Society? In relation to HIV; we'll come to hepatitis later.  A. Um, yes. And we had that constant balancing act between people with HIV who felt that we should be doing much more, and people who did not have HIV who et alt hat we should be tell that we were alteady doing too much. And as tell that we were alteady doing too much. And as trustees, we had to balance those, and one never to doing much more, and people who did not have HIV who et that we see alteady doing too much. And as tell that we were alteady doing too much. And as the seek were alteady doi
the other end of the spectrum who were seeking greater campaigning work from the Society? In relation to HIV; well come to hepatitis later.  A. Um, yes. And we had that constant balancing act between people with HIV who felt that we should be the people with HIV who felt that we should be the people with HIV who felt that we should be the people with HIV who felt that we should be the people with HIV who felt that we were already doing too much. And as felt that we were already doing too much. And as furustees, we had to balance those, and one never find any or trustees, we had to balance those, and one never find completely succeeds.  MS FRASER BUTLIN: Sir, I'm about to move on to a different topic and I see the time. I wonder were now is a good time to take the morning break.  SIR BRIAN LANGSTAFF: Yes, it is. We'll take a break until quarter to 12.  Now, Mr Watters [sic], you may have been Now, Mr Watters [sic], you may hav
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we started looking at the issue  Q. More substantially?  11 any treatment and that there is little for them to  worry about?"  13 A more substantially.  13 How had the project team come to that
<ul> <li>Q. More substantially?</li> <li>A more substantially.</li> <li>How had the project team come to that</li> </ul>
13 A more substantially. 13 How had the project team come to that
•
14 Q. Do you know what had caused the Society at that point 14 preliminary view with percentages and an initial view
in time to consider the issue more substantially? 15 of the seriousness of hepatitis?
16 A. No. Um, no. 16 A. I don't recall. Probably because as a result of
17 Q. The letter to Dr Hay then sets out a series of 17 conversations with clinicians.
questions. It reads: 18 Q. If we go over the page we can see in the middle of the
19 "Our starting point was the need to have some 19 page:
basic information on the scale and nature of the 20 "On the question of treatment is there anything
problem. Are we right in thinking, for example, that 21 we can do in terms of promoting certain life styles or
most (how many?) older patients with severe 22 habits that might minimise the development of chronic
haemophilia have been in infected with hepatitis C at 23 liver disease? Are there certain things that people
some time in the past? Are we right in thinking that 24 with hepatitis should not do or avoid?"
in most cases this is not a problem and that in only 25 The fact that the question is being asked in
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1 this letter in September 1991 might suggest that the 2 Society hadn't substantially given thought to those 3 questions before that. What's your recollection of 4 the previous times when you were on the Committee of 5 how much engagement there was with hepatitis, 6 particularly non-A, non-B? 7 A. As I say, I was absent from the board for about two 8 and a half years or so prior to this. So I'm not 9 familiar whether there are any conversations. But as 10 a patient, the conversations with non-A, non-B 11 hepatitis had been around for -- was a known issue, as

again, purely personally, as a patient, one had been told this kind of thing that it was in most cases a very long term progression, that it was likely that there was not going to be -- you know, it was not a concern for most. That was sort of part of the sort of day-to-day conversation with one's treating physician.

it were, and I was familiar as a result of that. And

I believe -- I can't quite recall, but a clear test for hepatitis C only became available, I think, around about 1989, but again, I'm not an expert on that. It was around that period, I think.

24 Q. The Inquiry has heard evidence about the dates for testing.

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"I think you should be very wary of making too much of a fuss about it and giving it too high profile since this will just cause distress, and since liver disease is a much smaller problem than HIV that most people affected will not suffer any problems from it." That's what Dr Hay's letter said.

7 A. Mm-hm.

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Q. If we then go to the Executive Committee meeting in November 1991, HSOC0010385. It's the third page of the minutes, please, Soumik, under the heading "Hepatitis".

We can see that:

"Mr Milne reported that the Project Team consisting of Mr Dickason and Mr Taylor, along with Mr Barker and Mr Watters, had completed the brief on hepatitis. Mr Taylor told the Committee that, having contacted experts in the field and having received comprehensive reports on the current thinking of the subject, the Team had concluded that hepatitis should not be a major concern for the Society. 80% of people infected with HCV and HBV would show no clinical signs and the treatments available were limited; the understanding of the progression of liver disease could only be established through liver biopsies, now considered unethical. The team felt that the Society

A. Yes. 1

Q. If we look at the last paragraph of the letter, we can 3 see that Mr Barker said that he's written a similar 4 letter to Dr Mayne, Professor Preston and Dr Lee, as 5 well as obviously this letter to Dr Hay. Why did it 6 go to those four doctors? How did the team decide who 7 it would go to?

8 A. They were all Haemophilia Centre Directors who had 9 taken a strong interest, as we understood it, in 10 hepatitis. And so they were naturally the first port 11 of call, as it were. That's my understanding.

12 Q. If we go to the next page of the document we can see 13 the start of the reply from Dr Hay, then if we carry 14 on to the next page, so the body of the letter, and 15 we're looking at the penultimate paragraph, in the 16 middle of that paragraph, it says:

> "For older patients, only qualified reassurance can be provided that the majority, probably of the order of 80-85%, will never suffer any problems from liver disease."

> Then if we carry on to page 8, and the bottom paragraph of that, he says:

23 "I think maybe a haemophilia factsheet about 24 liver disease would be reasonable."

Then a little further on:

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1 was in danger of creating concern and worry where they 2 need not exist. Publicity and high profile coverage 3 would be out of proportion to the threat that actually 4 existed. Mr Taylor proposed that a factsheet on 5 hepatitis be prepared and a request made that the 6 Project Team be discharged from its duties; the 7 Committee agreed ..."

> So we can see that what you said in the Executive Committee meeting, or what's recorded in the minutes, appears to reflect and mirror what Dr Hay had provided in his letter. Is that fair?

12 A. Absolutely. And indeed, a non-expert reading of the 13 other letters as well.

Q. It also mirrored what Dr Lee had said? 14

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Could we then go back to HSOC0003297, which is the 17 same document we were on a moment ago, and go on to 18 page 14 of the pdf. And we come to the letter from 19 Professor Preston.

> If we look at the second paragraph, halfway down that paragraph, we see that Professor Preston says:

"Most authorities accept that, of those individuals who have been exposed to the hepatitis C virus, 50% will develop chronic liver disease and that approximately 20% of these patients will have

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56 (14) Pages 53 - 56

			The injected blood	<i>a</i> 1111	quiry	20 Way 2021
1		cirrhosis of the liver. There is also now increasing	1		was what the other o	doctors were saying, I think
2		evidence that hepatocellular carcinoma is	2		I believe.	
3		a complication of chronic HCV liver disease."	3	SIF	R BRIAN LANGSTAFI	F: I see.
4		So Professor Preston appears to be giving rather	4	MS	FRASER BUTLIN:	Was there any discussion at the meeting
5		different statistics to Dr Hay in his letter, is that	5		of the project team a	bout the fact that you had Dr Hay
6		fair?	6		saying one statistic a	and Professor Preston giving
7	Α.	Um, slightly. I think and again, I'm not	7		a rather gloomier sta	
8		a hepatologist, but chronic liver disease was	8	Α.	I don't recall.	
9		referenced in Dr Hay and Dr Lee's evidence. And	9	Q.	Was there any we	II, why did the project team decide
10		I think the 20% the key figure there is the 20%,	10			iew over Professor Preston's?
11		which I think accords with effectively what was then	11	Α.		ally but I think it probably
12		reported back as being the population which might have	12			cause there was a feeling that that
13		significant problems.	13			As I say, I don't think there was
14	Q.	Well, in Dr Hay's letter, he indicated that probably	14			that the differences were that
15		of the order of 80% to 85% will never suffer any	15		=	n't recall the meeting, you
16		problems from liver disease. That is quite	16		know, specifically.	3, ,
17		a different statistic to 50% developing chronic liver	17	Q.		ns from different clinicians, was
18		disease, isn't it?	18			about the need to explain to
19	A.	Probably. Again, I'm not an expert	19			osition was not clear-cut?
20		BRIAN LANGSTAFF: Well, you don't have to be an	20	Α.		, you know, the situation did
21		expert, do you, to understand that 15% not having	21			oon after this, you know, we
22		problems is rather different from 50%?	22			more activities and as
23	Α.	I think I think my interpretation or my	23		_	oped. But I don't recall the
24		understanding was that the chronic liver disease need	24		_	lace at that meeting other than
25		not necessarily cause significant problems. And that	25		what is minuted.	· ·
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1	Q.	With the benefit of hindsight, in relation to that	1		and I want to go to ti	hat now.
2		early period, that initial period, do you consider	2		Could we turn	n to HSOC0017237, please, Soumik.
3		that the risks of hepatitis C were downplayed in the	3		These are minutes of	f a meeting of the Policy Committee
4		information that was provided to the Society by some	4		on 15 April 1992, an	d I want to go on to internal
5		clinicians?	5		page 4, please. Tha	ink you.
6	Α.	I think that's probably the case, and I think it's	6		And at the bo	ttom of the page we can see the
7		notable that whilst the group was formally stood down,	7		heading "Hepatitis",	and we can see that:
8		within a few months, from the beginning of the	8		"Mr Cowe sai	d that in 1991 a Project Team had
9		following year, it was resurrected again because	9		looked at hepatitis, r	eported its findings and been
10		I think more information was coming forward and it was	10		discharged, but since	e then concern had been voiced
11		developed. But I think you're right. I think that	11		that the matter was i	not as cut and dried as had been
12		the tendency was for clinicians and again, speaking	12		thought. A statemer	nt of the Society's policy on
13		purely personally, as somebody who would be talking to	13		hepatitis had appear	ed in <i>Update</i> April 1992, and
14		my clinician, the general sense was: look, this is not	14		a fact sheet was in t	he pipeline."
15		something particularly for you to worry about.	15		Can you help	us just in relation to how this
16	Q.	And do you think that because you'd had those	16		understanding had c	ome about? How was the concern
17		discussions with your own clinician, that might have	17		raised?	
18		influenced how you read the information from	18	Α.	I'm afraid I don't reca	all.
19		Professor Preston or Dr Hay and which you gave greater	19	Q.	If we then read on it	says that:
20		credence to?	20		"Mr Barker sa	aid that he thought the Society
21	A.	That's possible, but I wouldn't have been alone.	21		should adopt a stron	ger, more active position as
22		Again, you know, we were all well, some of us were	22		various developmen	ts weretaking place, such as the

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25  $\,$  Q. You said a moment ago that the team was resurrected  $\,$  59

conversations. You know, that's always possible.

patients, so, again, we would have had those

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60 (15) Pages 57 - 60

development and availability of Interferon."

a "stronger, more active position"?

What was meant by him in relation to taking

The Infected Blood Inquiry 26 May 2021 Soumik it's HSOC0003289. A. Again, I don't recall. However, on a reading of that, 1 1 2 2 These are minutes from 16 September, and there I think that that was particularly in context of 3 3 making sure that interferon, if appropriate, was made seem to have been three key points addressed. 4 available to patients. Interferon at the time was an 4 Firstly, the second paragraph: 5 5 exceedingly expensive treatment. Many thousands of "It was agreed ..." 6 6 pounds. And my belief is that -- and that became an I think it should say: 7 element of our campaign going forward, was to make 7 "... [after] careful consideration that while 8 8 sure that interferon treatment, as I say, if there did not appear to be a basis for a generalised 9 9 appropriate, was made available. compensation campaign on the basis of presently held Q. By 1993, there was a Hepatitis Task Group in play. Do 10 10 information, this should be kept under close review 11 you recall how that came into being? 11 both in this country and with other WFH NMOs 12 A. Again, not in any detail. I believe it probably would 12 throughout the world." 13 13 have just been a natural progression. Again, as Then secondly, under "Possible future evidence came to light, as knowledge evolved, then the 14 14 activities": 15 15 Society evolved its response. "It was agreed that the most valuable roles 16 Q. Soumik, could we --16 which could be provided by the Society lay in the 17 17 A. In fact -- sorry -- sorry, just -- I do recall, and provision of accurate and up to the minute advice and 18 it's evidenced, that actually, I was the one who 18 information and an ongoing lobby to ensure the very 19 raised it, that actually we should be doing it more, 19 best levels of treatment and care of people with 20 in July 1993. 20 haemophilia and hepatitis in any/all its form along 21 Q. Even after the minutes we just looked at, in 21 with support for those who are and become ill." 22 22 July 1993, you felt even more should be done? Then finally, towards the end of the page: 23 23 A. Yes. "The meeting then went on to discuss Q. If we could have the -- some minutes that we've got of 24 24 recommendations for a Hepatitis Awareness Campaign for 25 a meeting of the Hepatitis Task Group, please. 25 [People With Haemophilia]. After discussion a format 61 62 1 1 was agreed whereby a series of meetings could be held Was that whatactually took place or do you 2 2 at seven venues throughout the UK where medical and 3 legal aspects of hepatitis would be presented ..." 3 A. I think that is correct, yes. Sorry, my memory is not 4 When it's mentioned that there would be legal 4 perfect in this, but I think, yes, that does -aspects of hepatitis, what was that referring to? 5 5 Q. My apologies, I should have gone to that first. 6 That was referring to -- at those hepatitis awareness 6 A. No, no, no. 7 sessions, we would have a number of speakers. So we 7 Q. Why was the hepatitis task group considering adding in 8 8 would have somebody from the Society, we would have the legal side to the issues? 9 9 a clinician, as we say, from another area, so that A. That was simply because people were interested in it. 10 patients didn't feel that necessarily they were having 10 So it was an opportunity -- these meetings were 11 to talk to their regular physician; they got a second 11 an opportunity for members to ask questions and raise 12 opinion. But we also, I believe and recall, that we 12 issues, and a number of them were asking about 13 13

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invited representatives of the law firms who were pursuing some claims to come and talk about some of the issues about potential litigation, is my recollection.

17 Q. Soumik, could we just go to the next page of this 18 document, in relation to the legal position. It 19 indicates at the top that:

"On the legal front it was agreed that, subject to approval by Committee B, a 'brief' should be compiled alongside lawyers ..."

23 A. Okay, okay:

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"... this could then be presented by a member of the Executive Committee."

litigation, and so we felt it was appropriate to touch on that as part of the session, as it were. 15 Q. In relation to the clinical information, as you say, 16 at the bottom of the page it indicates that home players wouldn't be used --18 A. Mm. 19 Q. -- so that there would be an informal second opinion. 20 Can you explain why it was felt that home players

22 A. That was, as I said earlier, it was really to be able 23 to give a slightly different -- the nature of the 24 relationship between many patients and their doctor

25 was a very long-term one and sometimes a very close

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shouldn't be used?

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(16) Pages 61 - 64

1		one. And we felt that it would be people might be	1		it, sir. Apologies. The second paragraph. No, I'm	
2		able to ask more difficult questions of a doctor who	2		sorry, the page before, Soumik, the second paragraph	
3		they weren't seeing on a regular basis, and things	3		Why was that the view?	
4		like that, but we felt that it might just facilitate	4	A.	I think again, my recollection isn't complete.	
5		a much more freedom of discussion in the Q&A which	5		However, I think the feeling was that this was a much	
6		individuals might have.	6		more complex issue in some cases than HIV. Whilst t	he
7	Q.	How did the group decide which clinicians would be	7		root cause of the hepatitis C infection was the same,	
8		asked to do these sessions?	8		which was the, you know, failure of Government policy	/
9	A.	I don't recall specifically. I think it would have	9		and the failure to have self-sufficiency. I think	
10		been a combination of availability, which clinicians	10		there were complications because the time of infection	1
11		were willing to do it and things like that and also	11		might have been much earlier, might have been	
12		which clinicians probably had some expertise in	12		people might have been affected in the 1970s. And	
13		hepatitis. But I don't recall the specifics.	13		I think that the legal advice that we'd been getting	
14	Q.	Was there any discussion about the fact that some	14		was pointed out that it was going to be very difficult	
15		clinicians considered hepatitis to be a greater	15		to show direct negligence or, indeed, to identify who	
16		problem than others, that there were varying opinions	16		might be the defendant, as it were. So again, we were	9
17		between clinicians?	17		dealing with a period of uncertainty at that point.	
18	A.	I have no recollection of that discussion.	18		I would suggest it was the background to that	
19	Q.	Going back to the very first point on the minutes, the	19		(inaudible).	
20		point that there didn't appear to be a basis for	20	Q.	That was September 1993. Could we now turn to	
21		a generalised compensation campaign, why was that the	21		HSOC0023353, we're going on to 1994. If we look	
22		view of the group?	22		toward the bottom of the page we can see a report fro	m
23	SIR	BRIAN LANGSTAFF: Are we still looking at this on the	23		the Hepatitis Task Group, and at point e), we see	
24		screen?	24		a letter was to be sent to all Centre Directors	
25	MS	FRASER BUTLIN: We are just going back to the top of	25		"expressing Society concerns on HCV".	
		65			66	
1		Do you recall what those concerns were?	1	A.	I think the case was not clear but I'd also point to	
2	Α.	No.	2		other comments in the discussion, where there was	
3	Q.	Under f), we see:	3		a lot of concern was raised about the potential	
4		"No consensus amongst solicitors on the question	4		adverse consequences of the campaign and the feedb	ack
5		of medical negligence"	5		again that we had had from individuals about linking	
6		And:	6		hepatitis with haemophilia and also the lack of	
7		"The hepatitis task group recommended that the	7		knowledge about hepatitis in the community at large.	
8		Executive Committee discuss a proposal for a	8		The media represented hepatitis C as being the new	
9		hepatitis C publicity campaign whose objective it	9		HIV, and there was a lot of feeling that we	
10		would be to gain better treatment and care for those	10		shouldn't we should be very careful about going	
11		infected and financial help from the Government as and	11		down that route.	
12		when those infected became ill. The Services	12		Other than that, I think that's all I can	
13		Committee [which was the meeting] was invited to	13		comment on, from my memory.	
14		comment on these proposals."	14	Q.	A few entries above your what you'd said being	
15		We then have views expressed.	15		noted, there's an entry where Norma Guy said it's	
16		If we can go over the page please, Soumik, we	16		noted that she:	
17		can see your view noted in the minutes:	17		" suggested that the Society would have to be	е
18		"Simon Taylor concluded the discussion by	18		seen to be actively dealing with the issue of	
19		suggesting that the Society should make it clear to	19		hepatitis otherwise members such as the Manor Hous	е
20		ministers and the Department of Health that it takes	20		Group may approach the press themselves."	
21		the situation extremely seriously. Pressure should be	21		And then she also goes on to say that it's	
22		put onto them, possibly through occasional media	22		noted that she:	
23		coverage. A high profile campaign was not yet	23		" expressed concern regarding the	
24		appropriate."	24		dissatisfaction of the Manor House Group, if the	
25		Why was that your view at the time?	25		Society was not seen to be doing something. In	
		67			68 (17) Pages	65 6

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response to this David Evans stressed that the Society was clearly attempting to provide more information and promote better treatment for its members."

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What do you recall of that discussion and how relevant it was that there was group of people who wanted to have a much stronger campaign?

- I don't recall anything of the meeting other than what is minuted, first of all, I should say. I think, as with so many cases, we -- we had to balance different opinions. You know, there were individuals, the Manor House Group, who quite understandably and quite rightly were pressing for more action, and we also had members who were pressing us to not take action. So we were between a rock and a hard place, as they say. As it turned out, and fairly shortly thereafter, you know, we then moved into taking a much more high-profile approach.
- 17 Q. Soumik could we move on to HSOC0021550, please. 18 19 We can see this is a press release from 20 November 1994. Were you involved in the drafting 21
- 22 A. I don't recall but it's quite possible.
- 23 Q. It says in the second and third paragraphs that:

"The vast majority of people have had the condition for some decades, are well, and every

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support. I have a feeling that this press release, and indeed there's another document a few days later, 3 which is a motion passed at our council, was in 4 response to some specific high profile media story, 5 but -- I don't recall specifically but that's my sense

7 Q. Could we then turn to HSOC001 -- sorry, Soumik, let me start again. HSOC0016972, please.

> We can see here that it starts with a campaign group meeting in January '95.

> > I want to carry on to page 3, please, Soumik.

Which is a progress report in relation to the hepatitis C campaign, and it's dated 7 December 1994. So we're at the end of December.

So by then a campaign group had been established, and you were a member of it.

- 17 A. Mm-hm.
- 18 Q. What had changed between November '94 and December '94, such that a campaign group was set up?
- 19 20 A. I don't recall anything specific but clearly we had 21 reflected on the situation, and decided to, you 22 know -- that we should move forward with an active 23 campaign. But I don't recall the specifics. But as 24 you point out, you know, this was -- in terms of

25 a voluntary organisation, with volunteers, six weeks

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indication is that they will remain so. A small 2 proportion have had severe problems, and we are taking 3 all appropriate measures to ensure that those affected 4 have the maximum amount of information and the best 5 possible care.

> "We have no plans to seek compensation from the government, our priority is to ensure help and support for people who are unwell as a result of hepatitis C."

Is there a connection between those two paragraphs? And by that, I mean in the second paragraph there is a discussion that it's only going to affect a small proportion of people, only "a small proportion [will have] severe problems", and in the next, it indicates that there are "no plans to seek compensation". Was it the case that the Society wasn't seeking compensation because of the belief that it was only going to affect a small --

- 18 A. No.
- 19 Q. -- proportion of people?

20 A. No, absolutely not. The fact that, you know, even if 21 had only been a very small number of people and -- you 22 know, we would have acted on their behalf. I don't 23 recall quite why we said we had no plans to seek 24 compensation from the Government, and shortly 25 thereafter we started campaigning for financial

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- 1 was a pretty short period to start getting up to speed 2 with a potential major campaign.
- 3 Q. And if we look at paragraph 2 under the heading 4 "Meeting with [Department] of Health" --
- 5 A. Yes.

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6 Q. -- we can see that:

> "An informal meeting (ST and GB) ..." So yourself and Mr Barker?

- 9 A. Mm-hm.
- 10 Q. "... was held with Tom Kelly at the Department of 11 Health to explain current position. Our concerns and 12 wishes from Government spelt out in broad terms. This 13 contact will be continued. [Department] very happy 14 with Society that not seeking compensation."

Why did you inform the Department of Health in an informal meeting that the Society was not seeking compensation for its members?

- 18 A. I don't recall. And, you know, I've looked at that 19 and I really do not -- it's the same statement as in 20 the press release, so we had already publicly stated 21 six weeks earlier that we were not seeking 22 compensation. I do not have any recollection as to 23 why we had said that, and I fear I don't recall the 24 meeting with Tom Kelly, although it clearly happened.
- 25 Tactically, in hindsight, would this have reduced your

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(18) Pages 69 - 72

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1		firepower, your strength position of strength with	1		in an informal meeting, and indeed, as you say, in the
2		the Department of Health?	2		press release, that you were not seeking compensation,
3	Α.	No, I don't think it would, because, you know, we	3		at what stage did you then go back to them and say,
4		effectively we changed our mind fairly quickly	4		"We are seeking financial help"?
5		thereafter, when we started seeking financial support	5	A.	This is the same document, isn't it? It's just an
6		for people. So I don't think it made any difference,	6		earlier part of it. I just want to have the timeline
7		particularly. But I would like to remember I wish	7		right in my mind.
8		I could remember quite why we said that.	8	Q.	Of course.
9	Q.	And indeed, if we go back to the beginning of this	9	A.	I would imagine that we sorry, I've got to be more
10		document, to the January '95 notes of the campaign	10		specific.
11		group, in the middle of the page we've got a heading	11		I do not recall directly. However, I think that
12		"Clarification Of What The Society Wants", and we can	12		the line of thinking was probably similar to which
13		see	13		that which had been through the HIV campaign, which
14	Α.	Ah, right, there we are.	14		was that if we started talking about compensation,
15	Q.	that in January '95:	15		they would parrot back the same statement that they
16		"Financial help to individuals is one of	16		had said about HIV, which is, "Well, sue us, then. Go
17		4 objectives"	17		to the courts."
18	Α.	Yes.	18		So I'm thinking that, in all probability, we
19	Q.	And (b) and (c) then deal with seeking:	19		were seeking, as I say, a similar approach to that
20		"More equitable treatment between HCV infected	20		which we'd taken with HIV, which was to seek financial
21		and HIV infected."	21		support, which might have allowed the Government, how
22		And then:	22		shall we put it, a way out, as it were, rather than
23		"Modification of [the] Macfarlane Trust	23		backing them into the litigation corner, if that makes
24		deeds"	24		sense.
25		Having told the Department of Health in December	25	Q.	So that was January 1995.
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1	Α.	But, as I say, I don't recall specifically, but that's	1		that we might have got agreement on funding for
2		my belief in the kind of thinking which probably would	2		interferon. I believe that we got that, yes. So in
3		have been taking place.	3		March 1996 we got the Government achieved agreed
4	Q.				that they would provide funding for interferon
5		that the campaign was officially launched on	5		treatment for indicated people with haemophilia and
6		14 March 1995.	6		hepatitis C.
7	Α.		7	Q.	The campaign continued even while you were not on the
8	Q.	Then you served on the Executive Committee until	8		Executive Committee
9		1996	9		Mm.
10		Correct.	10		and you returned in 1998.
11		5	11	A.	Correct.
12	Α.	Correct.	12	Q.	I want to move on to September 2000.
13	Q.	During that period, from March 1995 until you stepped	13	Α.	•
14		down in 1996, how successful would you say the	14	Q.	By then, there were ongoing questions about whether
15		campaign was over that time?	15		the Society should be continuing with the hepatitis C
16	Α.	In terms of outcomes, it was not very successful.	16		campaign.
17		I don't recall. In terms of what I might call inputs,	17		Soumik, please can we have HSOC0000365. I'm
18		ie, the effort put into it, I think it was quite	18		afraid I think I've given you the wrong reference.
19		considerable, you know, but the letters to MPs, you	19		Just a moment, Soumik. I hadn't it is that
20		know, the representations to Government, use of the	20		reference. HSOC0000365, but it's the second page of
21		media and things like that, you know, I think we made	21		the document, please.
22		a considerable effort during the course of the	22		We have here a lengthy letter that you wrote to
23		campaign, you know, in that period.	23		Chris Hodgson in September 2000, and you're placing on
24		But I don't recall specifically that I think	24		record, you say, four points. The first, under
25		the one thing it might have done, if I recollect, is	25		number 1:
		75			76 (19) Pages 73 - 7

(19) Pages 73 - 76

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"As I made clear at the Board meeting held 12 September, I cannot support the political campaign for financial assistance for those affected by HCV. This is primarily because I believe that, as I set out in my paper presented to the Board, the prospects for success are negligible, and in light of this I cannot justify further expenditure of charitable funds on a campaign which I do not believe can succeed."

Can you explain to us why you considered that the campaign was not going to succeed at that point? A. I think, just to put the letter in context and to make it very clear what I say in the very first line, which is I was writing this letter in my capacity as treasurer of the Society. And, regardless of my own personal views on the campaign, on hepatitis, I had a duty to safeguard the funds and assets of the Society.

And Karin Pappenheim, who was the chief executive at that point, had earlier raised questions and issues about the campaign, quite rightly, because it's only good practice in any organisation, if you're conducting an activity over a period of time that is taking up a very significant amount of time and resources, that it should be reviewed.

And the review which took place in the end of

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this judgment, which was shared by a number of trustees, is based on your professional experience. And you go on to say:

"Anyone who believes that in the current political climate, we can obtain a reversal of a government policy that has been endorsed by three successive Secretaries of State, in two governments of opposing political persuasions, is deluding themselves."

Was it the fact and the nature of response from Government --

12 Α. Yes.

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13 Q. -- that informed your --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. -- view that this was not going to succeed?

16 A. Yes. I had a feeling, so professionally, but as 17 I say, we were banging our head against a brick wall. 18 Now, there's nothing wrong with doing that, but it 19 needs to be a conscious decision, as it were.

> As I say, I would draw a clear distinction between my comments as the treasurer responsible for the assets of a Society from my own view. My own personal view, as somebody living with hepatitis C, was that we should carry on. By then, it became clear

that I was not going to die of AIDS but I was then --

1999, I think it was -- what's the date of this letter?

3 Q. September 2000.

4 A. September 2000, sorry. No, during 2000 -- was that 5 the campaign had been hard fought and was being hard 6 fought. However, two governments of different 7 political persuasions had flatly turned us down, and 8 there were a number of other significant factors which 9 were mitigating against the campaign.

> And so I wrote this letter as a sort of challenge, effectively, to get -- specifically to get legal advice on pursuing the campaign going forward.

As you say, I raised a number of different issues, and I felt that it was important that if we were going to go forward, that we had proper what you might call legal cover for it, because we stood the risk of being challenged by our own members for carrying on this campaign, particularly at a time, I recall, that we were running at a deficit, as a charity.

So it was, I felt, appropriate to, as I say, raise various concerns which I and others on the Executive Committee had, so that we could get clarity and then we could decide how to go forward.

If we read on in this paragraph, you indicate that Q.

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1 so then the next thing I probably would die of is 2 hepatitis C. So, quite personally, I was quite keen

that we should continue but I felt that it was

4 important that the Board and the trustees should 5

really take a really long hard look and we were very clear about where we go from here.

7 Q. You've mentioned wanting legal advice to be sought, 8 and we see that in the second paragraph of your 9 letter, that you had asked Karin to seek advice from 10 Paisners as to the legality of pursuing this campaign.

11 A. (Witness nodded)

12 Q. If we can pick that up and go to WITN4500026.

> What we have here are minutes of the trustee meeting, the Executive Committee having become a Board of Trustees in November 2000, and if we can turn to page 5, please. Thank you. Under the heading "Campaigns". We can see that:

"The trustees discussed the advice given by the Society's solicitors in relation to the Society's hepatitis campaign. It was noted that Paisner's advice following from the Charity Commission's guidance is that:

'... to ensure that the Society operates within the guidelines ... the trustees would first need to explore the possible success and viability of the

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(20) Pages 77 - 80

1 campaign (both from a financial and legal point of 2 view). It will also be necessary for the Society to 3 obtain medical evidence to support the campaign, and 4 this, together with any legal or other evidence, must 5 be presented objectively and responsibly'." 6 At the bottom of the page -- sorry, three 7 paragraphs from the bottom: 8 "There was discussion on the political aspects 9 of the campaign and debate about the aims. The point 10 was made that if higher priority were to be given to 11 campaigning with more resources being dedicated to 12 this activity, this could entail dropping other 13 activities and making cuts in service provision. 14 Trustees would be accountable to members for such 15 decisions." 16 Then at the bottom of the page: 17 "It was agreed to hold the extraordinary meeting 18 on 19 January ... in order to discuss the campaign 19 further and to allow time for external consultants to 20 review the campaign and come up with the costed and 21 time-tabled strategy required." 22 Is that your recollection of what took place? 23 A. Absolutely, and I think the earlier point you make 24 about having to drop other activities, we needed to be clear that we were making conscious decisions about 25 81 A. Probably, difficult to say with a hindsight of 1 2 20 years. But I don't think that necessarily, you 3 know -- it's reasonable, yes. 4 Q. Then at the bottom of the page we can see that: 5 "Following further discussion it was proposed by 6 [you, and then seconded] that: 7 "The campaign objectives are exclusively: 8 "a public inquiry into blood borne infections 9 "a hardship fund which would be a fixed total 10 sum for the benefit of individuals affected by HCV on 11 a case by case basis on evidence of hardship [and] 12 "recombinant for all'." 13 Just focusing in on the hardship fund objective, 14 why was that change to the campaign made from 15 financial help more broadly to a hardship fund? 16 A. I'm not sure. I don't recall specifically. However, 17 I'm not sure that that distinction was particularly 18 being made. 19 Q. So do you mean by that that this was intended to still 20 encapsulate financial help --21 A. Yes.

how we deployed our resources and assets. That's the 1 2 first point. 3 I think the second point was that the legal 4 advice had been that we needed to effectively get 5 experts to sort of assess the campaign, and we then 6 went on and got -- and recruited a leading firm of 7 public affairs consultants to help with the campaign 8 going forward, and that was part of our review 9 10 Q. In terms of that review, we can see the discussion in 11 January 2001. 12 Α. 13 Q. If we could have WITN4500028, please, Soumik. It's 14 page 2, please. Next page, please. Thank you. 15 About halfway down the page we can see the 16 heading "Campaign review", and within that text we can 17 18 "Trustees asked if Politics Direct considered 19 that the Society had had a powerful enough voice in 20 the campaign and Paul Richards replied that he could 21 not find any mistake or issue that had not been 22 covered but that a lack of clearly defined goals was 23 a weakness." 24 Do you think that was a fair assessment of the 25 position with the campaign? 82 1 I think, the -- my reading of that is that we were 2 looking at setting up another Macfarlane type 3 organisation. I don't recall that, I'm afraid. 4 Q. And then you finished your time as a trustee in the 5 following year, in 2002? 6 A. Indeed. You know, I'd say that we then went on from 7 there, and, as I say, hired a major agency at some 8 considerable cost. We achieved recombinant for all. 9 The public inquiry, I'm affeared, did not happen until 10 20 years later, but yes. 11 Q. I want to move to a different topic. I want to look 12 with you a little bit about the Society's interaction 13 with BPL and with pharmaceutical companies. 14 You've noted in your statement that the Society 15 reviewed information from BPL and pharmaceutical 16 companies and that -- you said this was valuable to 17

gain an understanding of the products and processes --18 A. Mm-hm.

19 Q. -- so that the Society could understand product safety 20 and innovations. 21

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Could we have a look at HSOC0029476\_076. We're going back to 1989. We can see on page 2 of these minutes, under the heading "Blood Products",

"Ken Milne reported that meetings would be held

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Q. -- rather than it being a pure hardship fund?

A. Well, I -- I don't recall but it was certainly,

Q. -- broadly --

A. Yes.

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with representatives of the various pharmaceutical companies over the coming months."

And, a little further on, that he would be joined by you at those meetings.

Did you in fact attend any of those sorts of meetings?

- 7 No. With one exception: I do recall going to BPL to 8 see their plant at Elstree in order to see the GMP, 9 the good manufacturing processes, which was the main 10 objective of the exercise. So it was a way of trying 11 to reassure us about the safety of the production 12 process of blood products. But in fact, I didn't --13 I was still in full-time employment at that point, and 14 so my availability and time to go to external meetings 15 during working hours was limited.
- 16 Q. But others did go to those sorts of meetings, it17 seems.
- 18 A. Um --

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- 19 Q. Is that your recollection?
- A. It's possible. Ken was a scientist by background and
   I think he would have taken the lead on many of those
   meetings, but I don't recall who else might have gone.
- Q. When there'd been a meeting or a visit with
   a pharmaceutical company or with BPL, was that
   information then conveyed to the Executive Committee?

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- companies, I think it was appropriate and necessary that we should occasionally seek opportunities to interrogate them on their processes. Given the history, as it were.
- Q. And when you've come to speak about funding from
   pharmaceutical companies, pharmaceutical companies
   providing funding for things with the Society, you've
   said in your statement that your view was one of wary
   cynicism.
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. What do you mean by that?
- 12 A. We were very clear that, you know, we were very small 13 charity, with very limited resources. And we were 14 aware, with the commercial companies, that they had --15 were, we believed, complicit, as it were, along with 16 the failure of Government policy, in having infected 17 us all with HIV or hepatitis C. And consequently, you 18 know, we didn't trust them. But we were reasonably 19 happy to take a bit of cash off them, you know, to 20 support our activities in dealing with a situation 21 which they had, in part, caused.
- Q. Given that the Society was small and, as you say, did
   accept the funding from the pharmaceutical companies,
   in the minutes it seems that the funding was for
   specific activities.

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1 Were they told about what was talked about?

- A. Um, yes. Probably fairly informally. These were not sort of very formal meetings, they'd be more sort of 'get to know' meetings, this is what we're doing. It would have been reported back probably through the Blood Products Committee. But I don't recall specifically.
- 8 Q. Similarly, when you went to visit BPL, I think in
   1994, the minutes suggest, did you convey that
   information back to other members of the Committee?
- A. I may have done but, again, it wouldn't have been a -it would be more of, you know, "I went to BPL, you
  know, I couldn't see any mice running around the
- 14 laboratories". It was a pretty informal kind of
- 15 process, as it were.
- Q. In relation to both your visit to BPL and the other
   visits to pharmaceutical companies, did you and the
   Committee consider that these organisations might have
   had a vested interest in showing you that their
   products were safe? Was there any sense of whether
   they had an interest in showing you particular things?
- they had an interest in showing you particular things?

  A. Well, they certainly had a -- I would hope to think
  that they had an interest in showing everybody that
  their products were safe. And given the record,
- their products were safe. And given the record,
   particularly, of the commercial pharmaceutical

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- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. For publications or seminars.
- 3 A. Yes, yes.
- 4 Q. Without that funding, would those activities have5 taken place?
- 6 A. It's impossible to say, as to what decision we might
  7 have made otherwise. Generally, we would have tried
  8 to carry on with those activities. They would be
  9 deemed to be priority activities, and we would have
  10 tried to carry on doing them. And it was only after
  11 we had identified the particular activities that we
  12 would go and see if we could get sponsorship.

But it's impossible to say what decisions we would have made with resources and priorities, you know, in that hypothetical situation.

- Q. How did the Society, the Executive Committee or Board
   of Trustees, address that tension between wanting the
   money, so that the activities could take place, but
   what you've described as the cynicism in relation to
   the pharmaceutical companies?
- A. I think it was pretty straightforward. The -- I'll be
   blunt, you know, we would try and screw them for as
   much as we possibly could.
- Q. Was the tension discussed? Was it a matter that wasspoken of in the Committee, that they weren't to be

88 (22) Pages 85 - 88

1 trusted but we'll have their money, thank you very 1 bit scattergun. 2 2 much? First of all, when you first arrived at the 3 A. I think it was a general consensus view and, you 3 Society in 1985, what established relationships did 4 know -- I think it was a general consensus view. We 4 the Society have with non-haemophilia clinicians? For 5 5 might not have been quite as blunt as I've just put example, hepatologists or virologists? 6 6 A. Probably very few, I think is my recollection because, 7 (Pause) 7 up until that time, it hadn't really been an issue, as 8 MS FRASER BUTLIN: Sir, those are the questions I have for 8 it were, but I don't recall that there were, 9 9 Mr Taylor. I obviously need to see if there are particularly at that point, strong relationships. As 10 further questions to be asked from the recognised 10 the HIV -- the impact of the HIV epidemic became more 11 legal representatives. We're just ahead of lunchtime. 11 apparent, then they did have -- they did develop 12 SIR BRIAN LANGSTAFF: Very well. 12 relationships. So for example, I recall, I think it 13 13 Well, we'll take a break now until five to two. was either in 1985 or 1986 at the annual general And come back and see what further questions we may 14 meeting, the Society invited Dr Richard Tedder, who 14 15 15 have. That gives you long enough, I think. was the leading epidemiologist in HIV, to come and 16 MS FRASER BUTLIN: It does. Thank you, sir. 16 give a talk. So they did develop as things SIR BRIAN LANGSTAFF: Very well. Five to two, Mr Taylor. 17 17 progressed. 18 Q. With the benefit of hindsight, could an independent 18 (12.49 pm) 19 (Luncheon adjournment) 19 medical view, from non-haemophilia clinicians, should 20 20 (1.55 pm) it have been sought sooner? 21 (Proceedings delayed) 21 Possibly with hindsight, but again, you know, it's 22 22 always easy to look at things in hindsight. (2.10 pm) MS FRASER BUTLIN: Mr Taylor, I have a series of questions 23 23 Q. In relation to the Medical Advisory Panel, were you 24 from the recognised legal representatives so they 24 aware, or was the Committee aware, that several of the 25 cover several of the themes, so they may feel a little 25 members of the MAP were instructed by the defendant as 89 90 expert witnesses in the HIV litigation? 1 1 compensation claims. This resolution had its base in 2 A. I was not aware of that, and I can't -- I don't know 2 the [US] where it was feared that actions brought 3 3 against individual pharmaceutical companies could lead whether the rest of the Committee were aware of that. 4 Q. So you don't recall any discussion about any possible 4 to a 'drying up' of the concentrate supply. Since it 5 5 conflict of interest in that regard? was felt that action against companies in the UK was 6 6 only one option -- and perhaps the least likely to A. No, no. 7 Q. In relation to the decision to openly say to 7 succeed -- it was suggested that we should reserve our 8 8 Government that there were poor prospects of success position by voting against the resolution. This was 9 9 on a compensation -- on litigation in relation to HIV, proposed by Mr Taylor, seconded by Mr Knight and 10 10 who made that tactical decision to say that? agreed unanimously." 11 A. I would think it was probably a consensus decision to 11 Do you recall this meeting and this resolution? 12 make it clear to the Government that they were 12 Not specifically, but I think it goes to show that we 13 effectively, as I said, being disingenuous in 13 didn't allow the possibility of said drying up or 14 proposing a path of action which was not going to 14 litigation against companies. We kept that option 15 succeed in providing help and support on an immediate 15 open, and we voted against this resolution, in order 16 basis to people who urgently needed help and support. 16 to keep that option open. And I don't recall that the 17 17 Q. When we were discussing the HIV litigation, we "drying up" of supply was a contributory factor in our 18 discussed whether the concerns about supply of 18 decision making. 19 concentrates influenced the Society's position on 19 Q. This morning we discussed two letters from Dr Hay and 20 20 litigation. Could we look at HSOC0029476\_061, please, Professor Preston about hepatitis C. 21 and could we go to page 3. 21 22 Q. If we could have HSOC -- sorry, I've got a different, At the top of the page, "Compensation claims", 22 23 23 just a different reference, give me one moment. we see: 24 "[The World Federation of Haemophilia] had also 24 HSOC0003297. Yes. Sorry. 25 circulated a paper advising against the pursuit of 25 And if we could turn to page 4 of the document, 91 92 (23) Pages 89 - 92 please. When we spoke about whether there was a difference between Dr Hay and Professor Preston, you said that your interpretation, your understanding was that the chronic liver disease need not necessarily cause problems and that there wasn't in fact a difference between the two letters. If you look at the first paragraph of this letter in the middle, it

"The patients are therefore usually unaware that they have liver disease ... The majority of these patients, if biopsied, have been shown to have chronic persistent hepatitis, a mild and usually non-progressive form of liver disease unlikely to give problems."

Is that where your understanding came from?

16 A. Yes.

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Q. We can take that down. Thank you, Soumik.

I have a few questions now about the hepatitis campaign. We spoke about the Macfarlane Trust and the need to maintain a good relationship with the Government in relation to future funding. To what extent was the Society's decision not to advance a hepatitis C campaign in the early '90s based on a desire not to jeopardise continued funding for the HIV population?

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A. No, 1996, for hepatitis. 1

SIR BRIAN LANGSTAFF: It's gone down as 1986 in the 2 3 transcript, but that's how I heard it. I thought you 4 meant '96.

5 A. Sorry. Definitely '96.

6 MS FRASER BUTLIN: I'm sorry, sir, I heard it as '96 but 7 that's fine, we've corrected the transcript. It is 8

9 SIR BRIAN LANGSTAFF: Good job we're not solicitors then, 10 aren't we?

11 MS FRASER BUTLIN: In relation to both the HIV and 12 hepatitis C campaign, you've described it as being 13 a moral case --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. -- rather than a legal case. Can you explain what you 16 mean by that?

17 A. The moot cause of the reason we're all here today is 18 that -- is that I and the Society has always believed 19 that it was a failure in Government policy. 20 Dr David Owen made the commitment and has given 21 evidence to this Inquiry; he made the commitment in 22 the mid-1970s. And as a physician himself, he 23 recognised the dangers and problems of the blood

24 supply that was coming from the United States, and 25

I think that was a key motive -- well, I know that was 95

A. I have absolutely no recollection that that was an 1 2 issue in our thinking at all.

3 Q. And within the hepatitis campaign, was the focus solely, in the '90s, on hepatitis C or was 4 5 consideration given to those with chronic hepatitis B?

6 A. It was totally focused on hepatitis C. Again,

7 hepatitis B was known -- was a known issue amongst the 8 recipients of blood products, and had been for 9 decades. And -- however, my recollection is that it 10 wasn't, again, felt to be, you know, of the same order

11 of a problem as let alone HIV or hepatitis C.

12 In relation to the hepatitis C litigation and the 13 legal advice, in your witness statement you've 14 discussed the legal advice that had been received by 15 the Society and by various legal firms, and you've 16 said that the advice received by those groups was in 17 many cases contradictory.

18 A. Mm-hm.

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19 Q. What do you mean by that? What was contradictory?

20 A. There's a specific example, I think in 1986 [sic], in 21 The Bulletin where we actually had a piece by two 22 solicitors, firms representing people who were 23 litigating, which gave directly opposing views on the 24 prospects of success. So that is what I meant.

SIR BRIAN LANGSTAFF: Do you mean 1986?

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1 a key motivation of him making that policy, in 2 discussions I've had with him. And it was that 3 consistent failure over many years by governments of 4 varying different colours to implement that promise, 5 which, if implemented, might not have eliminated all 6 of the problems that we've had to deal with but would 7 have vastly mitigated those -- the number of people 8 infected and affected, by a considerable amount.

And so, consequently, we believed that the Government on the day -- or all governments -- had a moral responsibility to redress the failure to implement that Government policy.

13 Q. And you've spoken about the campaigns that the Society 14 was running and you said there were competing demands 15 on resources of the Society. Could you just briefly 16 explain what those demands were?

17 A. Well, we still had ... we had -- during the 1980s, or 18 from when I was involved, 1985 through to the early 19 '90s in particular, you know, you had -- on the one 20 hand you had hysterical media coverage about HIV, 21 which seriously impacted virtually all of our members 22 in some way or another. Because, as I think I've 23 already mentioned, haemophilia became a marker for 24 HIV. And so you had people -- as I said, children who

> were being discriminated against at school, people 96

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1 whose job prospects were being put under threat, their 1 advice says we're going to fail". 2 2 homes were vandalised, and so we were dealing, as Why was it that the Society said that they had 3 3 a Society, with a flood of requests for help and had advice, ie legal advice, to that effect, rather 4 support coming in. So we had that. 4 than simply saying -- because the point is the same --5 5 We had the increasing call for campaigning, there were various difficulties in the way of pursuing 6 6 something which the Society had not done previously, a legal case? You didn't need to enumerate them, they 7 and from -- had to get up to speed and learn new 7 might have been obvious at the time, in the law as it 8 8 tricks, as it were, in terms of campaigning from about was at the time. 9 9 1985, 1986 onwards. But would that not have done the job, to 10 And at the same time we had to deal with what 10 simply -- why is it necessary to mention the fact that 11 I would describe as business as usual, which was 11 you'd had a legal advice as opposed to you appreciated 12 dealing with and supporting people, young families in 12 there were various difficulties in the path -- you 13 13 particular, with haemophilia, with children. And so might overcome them, you might not, but there were 14 we had all of this happening at the same time with 14 difficulties in the path of pursuing compensation? 15 a very small staff and volunteer trustees, and a very 15 A. I think there are two things. One is I think that, 16 limited financial income, as it were. 16 first of all, the fact that we had had legal advice 17 17 So those were some of the factors which were was in the public domain, because we had told our 18 18 members that asked us to get legal advice, we sought competing at all times for attention and resources. 19 MS FRASER BUTLIN: I'm just going to check my ... 19 legal advice and we told our members what the legal 20 20 Sir, those are the questions. advice was. So, first of all, it was already in the 21 Question from SIR BRIAN LANGSTAFF 21 public domain. 22 22 SIR BRIAN LANGSTAFF: I have just got one question to ask. I think the second point is that, as I think 23 23 I don't think I've ever, in my career yet, had I may -- I said earlier, was we believe that the 24 24 a case in which it has been known that one side has Government felt that, for them, trying to push us into 25 said in an open document to the other side, "Our legal 25 pursuing a legal option was for them the easy way out, 97 98 1 because they knew that it would take a long time and 1 forget the huge amount of good that the Society did 2 might not succeed. And a lot of our stakeholders or 2 during this really very, very difficult time, 3 key people that we were dealing with, people like MPs, 3 supporting our members and campaigning on behalf of 4 when we were seeking their support, would say, "Well, 4 our community. 5 can you not go for redress in the courts?" 5 The trustees were all volunteers from the 6 6 And so it was important to be able to explain to haemophilia community, in many cases were individuals 7 them, but yes, we could go to the courts, however, as 7 who were ill with or dying from HIV or hepatitis C, 8 8 you say, the prospects were uncertain, the advice that whilst they still campaigned for those infected and 9 9 we had had was that that might not succeed or if it affected. The background public climate of stigma and 10 would succeed, again, it would not be in a timely 10 fear towards HIV in the 1980s and '90s placed huge 11 manner to help the people who were in urgent need. 11 additional pressures on the Society, its trustees and 12 And therefore, please Mr or Mrs MP, would you support 12 all of us publicly campaigning on behalf of people 13 us with this moral or political campaign? I don't 13 with haemophilia. 14 14 The external environment, as I have said, was know if that helps. SIR BRIAN LANGSTAFF: Well, it does indeed. That's all I 15 15 extremely fearful and hostile to anyone with HIV or 16 ask. Thank you very much. 16 AIDS. Having haemophilia became a marker for AIDS and MS FRASER BUTLIN: Mr Taylor, is there anything else you 17 17 we have members who lost their jobs, children stigmatised at school, families whose homes were 18 would like to add? 18 19 A. I've got a brief statement, if that's all right. 19 vandalised. The staff of the Society, particularly 20 I just wanted to say, first of all, how much I welcome 20 David Watters, moved mountains to help in individual 21 this Inquiry, decades late, and too late for so many 21 cases such as these. 22 22 friends and colleagues. But I really very much HIV and hepatitis C were new and emerging 23 23 welcome this Inquiry. threats that were poorly understood for many years, 24 24 It's in the nature of an Inquiry such as this particularly in the case of hepatitis C. As is

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frequently the case with emerging threats, the

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that it focuses on what went wrong. But we must not

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1 scientific and medical advice was frequently 1 the prolonged reliance on imported blood products, 2 2 confusing, conflicting, incomplete and, with that in turn infected so many of us with HIV and 3 3 hindsight, some of it was incorrect. hepatitis C. 4 But I'd like to believe that we always acted in 4 Whilst much of a focus of the Inquiry to date 5 the utmost good faith. 5 has been on the actions of medical professionals, and 6 The Society and the great majority of our 6 now on the Society and other campaigners in due 7 members did not believe that, for the most part, 7 course, I believe that most of us whose lives were 8 8 haemophilia clinicians were negligent. Time and time devastated will be focusing on the evidence from 9 9 again, we were told that individuals did not want to Government that is yet to come, as to why 10 take legal action against their doctors. 10 self-sufficiency was not introduced when it had been 11 By and large haemophilia clinicians cared deeply 11 promised, and why they were content to place the 12 about their patients and acted in good faith in their 12 safety of British lives in the hands of foreign 13 13 treatment. Accordingly, the focus for Society's companies who had a proven record of playing fast and 14 campaigns was always to persuade Government to meet 14 loose with product safety. 15 15 its moral responsibility for its negligent behaviour. Individuals on the Trustee Board itself were 16 I, and the Society, have always been convinced 16 living under the personal pressures of living with 17 17 that the root cause of the disaster, and in particular haemophilia, HIV and hepatitis. No one could 18 its scale, were the inherently unsafe practices and 18 seriously suggest that the trustees were not taking 19 processes connected with paid blood and plasma 19 the issue seriously when so many of our own members 20 collection in the US and elsewhere in the 1970s. It 20 were infected and we were working alongside friends 21 was a risk recognised by the UK Government, and by 21 and colleagues who we watched become ill and die, 22 22 Dr David Owen as Health Minister when he made the knowing that this same fate awaited ourselves. 23 23 commitment to UK self-sufficiency in 1975. During my time on the Executive Committee, at 24 24 It was then the failure of successive UK least six of my trustee colleagues died from HIV. And 25 Governments to implement this commitment that led to 25 personally, another six of my friends from school also 101 102 1 died 1 Ms Karin Pappenheim. I think she will be remote. 2 2 I would contend that for such a small charity, SIR BRIAN LANGSTAFF: She will be remote. So tomorrow 3 3 whilst the outcomes of our campaigns remain 10 o'clock, to be heard remotely, obviously screened 4 unfulfilled to this day, what was achieved was truly 4 here for those who are here. 5 (2.33 pm) 5 remarkable and is a testament to the staff and 6 6 volunteers involved, and my thanks goes to all those (Adjourned until 10.00 am the following day) 7 over the years who have kept this issue alive. Thank 7 8 8 you. 9 9 SIR BRIAN LANGSTAFF: Thank you very much. You have 10 filled in some of the gaps for us, that we had, in 10 11 particular evidence covering the campaign which The 11 12 Haemophilia Society ran successfully for getting some 12 13 money, at any rate, out of the Government, the story 13 14 of the birth of the campaign, in respect of 14 15 hepatitis C, and generally you've illuminated other 15 16 evidence we have already heard, but you've illuminated 16 17 it further in respect of the Macfarlane Trust. 17 18 So I would just like to thank you for giving the 18 19 clear evidence you have. Despite what you said at the 19 20 start would be a gap in your memory in the 1990s, it 20 21 doesn't seem to have affected you very much and I'm 21 22 22 very pleased about that. So thank you. 23 23 A. Thank you. 24 24 SIR BRIAN LANGSTAFF: Tomorrow. 25 MS FRASER BUTLIN: Tomorrow the Inquiry will hear from 25 103 104 (26) Pages 101 - 104

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