Witness Name: Frederick John Elliott
Statement No.: WITN0183002
Exhibits: None
Dated: 04-02-21

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF FREDERICK JOHN ELLIOT

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 07 December 2020.

I, Frederick John Elliott, will say as follows: -

Section 1. Introduction

Please set out your name, address, date of birth and professional qualifications.

1. My name is Frederick John Elliot and my date of birth is GRO-C 1930. My address is GRO-C, Surrey, GRO-C. I do not have any professional qualifications.

Please set out your employment history, including the positions you have held, the dates that you held these positions, the organisations in which you held these positions and your role and responsibilities in these positions. If it is more efficient, a CV could be annexed at this point.

2. I have worked in the motor trade all my life. I started working at the coach builders in Esher and was there for over 40 years, ending my time there

as the Deputy Managing Director. I also worked for some other big dealerships. In the last 5 years of my career I was self-employed, working on motorcycle repairs. I retired in 1996.

3. I was never employed by the Haemophilia Society and my involvement with the Society was on a voluntary basis.

Please set out your membership, past or present, of any committees, groups, associations, societies or working parties relevant to the Inquiry's Terms of Reference, including the dates of your membership and the nature of your involvement.

4. I joined the Haemophilia Society in around 1960/1961 as an ordinary member. I then joined the Society's executive committee in around the mid 1960s. During my time on the executive committee, I became the Society's Group Liaison Officer. However, due to my work and family commitments, I left the executive committee in around 1971 but remained an ordinary member of the Society, although I took no active part.

Section 2: Previous Evidence

Please confirm whether you have provided any evidence or have been involved in any other inquiries, investigations, criminal or civil litigation in relation to human immunodeficiency virus ("HIV") and/or hepatitis B virus ("HBV") and/or hepatitis C virus ("HCV") infections and/or variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease ("vCJD") in blood and/or blood products. If you have, please provide details of your involvement and copies of any statements that you made.

5. I have not provided evidence or been involved in any other inquiry, investigation or litigation in relation to blood or blood products. However, I have provided a statement to the Inquiry in a personal capacity following my infection with Hepatitis C. (See WITN0183001)

Section 3: Your Role and the Structure of the Haemophilia Society

Please provide the dates of tenure, and describe your role and responsibilities at the Haemophilia Society ("the Society") and how these changed over time (if at all).

6. I believe I came to know about the Haemophilia Society when receiving treatment at Oxford Haemophilia Centre. I had 2 big dental operations at Oxford in 1960 and 1961, as it was the only place around that could treat me at the time. I believe it was around this time that I learned about the society and joined as an ordinary member. As a haemophiliac, I was interested in meeting others with haemophilia and keeping up to date with any haemophilia related issues.

7. I think it was a few years after joining the society as an ordinary member that I joined the executive committee of the Haemophilia Society, in around the mid 1960s. I cannot remember why I decided to join the executive committee or the process by which I joined. It is likely I would have registered my interest and then been nominated or seconded by a serving committee member.

8. I became the Group Liaison Officer for the Haemophilia Society a few years or so after joining the executive committee. This really did not amount to much, and it mainly involved travelling across the country to visit the various local groups of the society and feeding back what was discussed at their meetings to the executive committee. I may have passed information to these groups on behalf of the Executive committee but nothing specific that I recall after this time. At the time we had groups in many places including Leeds, Cardiff and Bournemouth.

9. The role of Group Liaison Officer became too time consuming and involved too much travel for me; I was busy with a young family and I was working all the time to support my family financially. I gave up this role, I think after a couple of years and left the executive committee

sometime after 1971, but as mentioned, I remained an ordinary member of the society.

When you joined the Haemophilia Society, and throughout your tenure, what were the objectives and functions of the Society? If these changed over time, please detail when and why.

10. When I joined the Haemophilia Society, its role was to improve the life of those living with haemophilia, and to consider the welfare of haemophiliacs nationwide. They wanted to have various groups around the country so that haemophiliacs could be involved with a group that was local to them and attend meetings.

11. It embodied the old adage of strength in numbers. Collective effort and so on. During the time when I was involved with the executive committee, the Society was mainly a social thing. A chance to get to know others in the same boat and share experiences. It was all very informal and casual. I do not remember there being any formal discussions or recommendations by the Society about haemophilia treatments that were being offered to haemophiliacs at the time.

Please list all the different Haemophilia Society sub-committees, "task groups" and/or advisory bodies that you were involved in and describe the purpose, functions and responsibilities of each committee, "task group" and/or advisory body.

12. I was not involved in any Haemophilia Society sub-committees, task groups or advisory bodies.

What was the relationship between the Society and Lord Mayor Treloar School? What interactions took place between the two organisations? How did this develop over time?

13. I remember that the pupils of the Lord Mayor Treloar School attended the Christmas Party of the Haemophilia Society. Other than this I was not aware of any special connection between the school and the Society. I was just aware that it was a school for students who were haemophiliacs. Our friends' son went to Treloars, and that is mainly how we knew about the school.

What was the relationship between the Society and UK Haemophilia Centre Directors Organisation ("UKHCDO")? What interactions took place between the two organisations? How did this develop over time?

14. I was not aware that there was a relationship between the Society and UKHCDO. I did not think that the Society would really be involved in that kind of thing. It was never really discussed at meetings as far as I can remember.

3. Medical Advisory Panel

Please describe the purpose, function and responsibilities of the Medical Advisory Panel. If this changed over time, please set out this information according to applicable time frames.

15. I have not heard of the Medical Advisory Panel and have no recollection of it being discussed at Society meetings.

The Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting dated 9 April 1970 state '...that Dr Biggs was asked to make recommendations for appointments to the Medical Advisory Panel' ***[HSOC0029691_122]****. How did the Haemophilia Society select members of the Medical Advisory Panel? What criteria were used, if any? How did membership change over time? Were any members of the Panel "favoured" and/or used more frequently than others? If so, why was that?*

16. I remember the name Dr Biggs, but I cannot remember anything about this panel. I know Dr Biggs was quite involved with the Society, but she did not attend our main meetings so I actually do not think I ever met her in person. She may have attended some of the local group meetings but I cannot really remember. I think she was at the Royal Free Hospital, but I was not treated there.

Furthermore, please explain:

a. How was advice sought from the Medical Advisory Panel?

b. Who decided when and about what matters advice would be sought?

c. Was advice sought from all members of the Medical Advisory Panel or only a selection of them? If a selection, how was that selection determined?

d. How were matters discussed by members of the Medical Advisory Panel? Is it correct that the Medical Advisory Panel did not meet in person during your tenure at the Society?

e. Did some members of the Medical Advisory Panel have more influence than other members, and if so, who carried more influence than others?

f. How was advice communicated from the Medical Advisory Panel to the Society?

g. How was the Panel's advice recorded once it was received by the Society?

h. In relation to what issues relevant to the Inquiry's Terms of Reference, did the Society seek the advice of the Medical Advisory Panel and what was the advice provided by the Panel on those issues?

17. As I mentioned above, I do not remember anything about a Medical Advisory Panel and was not involved in this during my time on the Executive Committee.

Were there occasions when the Executive Committee were informed that members of the Medical Advisory Panel disagreed with each other? If so, who decided which advice should be followed? Please provide all examples, *relevant to the Inquiry's Terms of Reference, that you can recall, where this occurred setting out what the disagreement concerned and the outcome of the disagreement.*

18. I cannot provide any information that may assist.

Were there occasions when the Haemophilia Society relied on its own judgement when deciding whether or not to formulate policy on the basis of the Medical Advisory Panel's advice? If so, please provide all examples, relevant to the Inquiry's Terms of Reference, that you can recall, of when the Society did not follow the Medical Advisory Panel's advice.

19. I cannot provide any information relating to this question.

Section 4: Communication and Dissemination of Information by the Society

4.1 Knowledge of risk

*At the time of your tenure on the Executive Committee of the Society, what did you know and understand about the risks of the transmission of hepatitis from blood and blood products? What were the sources of your knowledge? How did your knowledge and understanding develop over time? You may be assisted by **[HSOC0019512]**.*

20. I think it was always known that there was a risk of contracting hepatitis through blood products, but it was a risk we had to live with. I discussed things informally with fellow haemophiliacs and picked up new information by chatting to various society members, but none of us knew anything specific about the risks involved, certainly not during the period that I was a serving member.

21. I was told I had contracted a form of Hepatitis in 1981, when I was receiving treatment at Hammersmith Hospital. Even the medical staff did not know much about it at this time.

22. We were never given any medical briefing about hepatitis or any information about risks associated with blood products through the Haemophilia Society. I don't remember this being formally discussed by the executive committee either. The society, as I've said at the time I joined it was very informal, and it was mostly a social club with a fund-raising element. It was only later (after I had left the executive committee) that it grew much bigger and more formal, with more involvement in the medical side of things relating to haemophilia.

What information, if any, did the Haemophilia Society have about the sources of blood for commercially produced blood products overseas?

23. I am not sure what information the Haemophilia Society had about sources of blood for commercially produced blood products. Nothing was ever commented on at executive committee meetings during the time I was a committee member, as far as I can remember.

What information, if any, did the Society have about the different risks of infection between different blood products? How did the Society get this information?

24. I do not know.

The Annual Report 1969 states that the Haemophilia Society had 'materially helped to increase the production of blood concentrates' *with the World Federation of Haemophilia ("WFH")* ***[HSOC0022741, page 3]****. Can you give more detail of what the Society and the WFH did to 'increase the production of blood concentrates' internationally?*

25. It is too far back to remember. I never attended any World Federation of Haemophilia meetings and I'm not aware if there was a specific society member who liaised with the federation. I have been asked to make further comment on an updated version of **HSOC0022741** that was sent to me. It does not fundamentally alter my answer. I would say that I was not aware of Sir Weldon Dalrymple-Champneys donation in respect of the building named after him.

26. Looking at the last two paragraphs on the report, I think these bear out my earlier contention that the Society back then led a pretty much hand to mouth existence. Fund raising at a local level was key to the ongoing activities and it was a time before the current more formal and dare I say more professional structure came into being.

The Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting dated 10 July 1969 state "Particulars are being pursued of the Swiss Factor VIII concentrate" ***[HSOC0029691_112]****. Please explain what treatment this is in reference to? When did the Society first become aware of factor VIII concentrates as an alternative treatment to cryoprecipitate? Please describe the Society's policy towards factor VIII concentrates while you were in post?*

27. I do not remember a Swiss Factor VIII concentrate at all. There were so many concentrates different people were trying to produce at the time, but I cannot remember a Swiss one ever being mentioned.

28. I can't really say what the Society's policy was towards Factor VIII or when they first became aware of Factor VIII as an alternative to cryoprecipitate. I remember I was still having cryoprecipitate when I had my dental operations in the early 60s. They also tried a bovine concentrate on me that really did not work. I really can't remember specifics or put a date to it.

29. I do remember there was general discussion among friends about Factor VIII and why it was not being heat treated. I remember hearing that

Factor VIII was not being heat treated due to the cost involved. But again, this was not something that I recall being addressed formally by the Committee or indeed the Society.

The Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting dated 28 August 1969 state "Frank Schnabel had already had preliminary discussions with commercial producers of concentrates with the idea that the firms should produce concentrates in more countries, reduce the prices of factor VIII and IX concentrates and make their profits primarily from the remaining blood constituents. Congress unanimously agreed that the Executive should press hard with this scheme, and that transfusion services should be encouraged to make dried cryoprecipitate concentration wherever possible." ***[HSOC0029691_114]****. Please provide more details of this scheme.*

30. I remember the name Frank Schnabel, but I did not think he was related to the Haemophilia Society. I cannot remember this discussion at all.

The Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting dated 6 May 1971 states 'A letter has been received from Dr V.G. Daftary of Bombay concerning the sale of dried factor VIII concentrates from Bharat Laboratories, Bombay. Mrs. M.I. Britten had written suggesting that photostat copies of Dr Daftary's letter should be sent to all Haemophilia Centres and other interested doctors. After some discussion it was decided that the letter should be sent to Dr Rosemary Biggs asking if this was the proper action for the Society to take' ***[HSOC0029691_135]****. Please provide details. What action did the Society take in response to Dr Rosemary Biggs' suggestion that copies of* 'Dr Daftary's letter should be sent to all Haemophilia Centres and other interested doctors.'? *Did the Society advise or recommend products to haemophilia centres? If so, please provide details [You may also be assisted by* ***HSOC0029691_116****].*

31. I do not remember this discussion or anything to do with the Society's involvement in this matter. I recall the name Mrs Britten, but I do not remember her attending any Society executive committee meetings. I do

not recall the Society making any recommendations relating to products during my tenure.

4.2 Self-sufficiency in blood products

What was the Haemophilia Society's policy on self-sufficiency during your tenure? What representations, if any, did the Society make to the government and health services about UK self-sufficiency?

32. I do not remember there being any actual policy although obviously this would have been something close to the hearts of members of the Society.

Please identify who was responsible for determining the Society's position in relation to self-sufficiency.

33. I do not know. Mr Hunter was the chairman at the time that I was part of the executive committee, and he may have had some involvement in this. I can only speculate that it was dealt with at the top. There may have been sub-committees or individuals within the Society that addressed these issues but there was no open discussion on the Society's position that I can recall.

How and when was the Society's position regarding self-sufficiency communicated to the Government? If this changed over time, please detail when and why.

34. I have no knowledge of this.

Did the Government provide any assurances to the Society on its ability and aim to achieve self-sufficiency during your tenure? If so:

- *a. Please provide details, identifying assurances that the Society received, when they were received and by whom they were given.*
- *b. Did the Government place any caveats on these assurances?*

c. Did the Haemophilia Society rely on these assurances and if so how?
d. Were any actions taken by the Society to verify the assurances?
e. Were these assurances communicated to members? If so, how?

35. I vaguely remember Government assurances regarding self-sufficiency of blood products being discussed at a committee meeting, but I cannot remember any details about this as it was such a long time ago.

Section 5: Treloars

The Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting on 10 June 1971 ***[HSOC0029691_136]*** *state that Dr Kuttner attended a Treloars open day and that the Southern group had suggested* "that with Dr Bell they organise a camp for children at Treloar College next year during the summer holidays." *What financial and organisational support, if any, did the Society give Treloars?*

36. I remember the name Dr Kuttner but I do not remember anything about him or his role with the Society. At the Society we were aware of the Treloars School, but I was not aware of a close relationship between the school and the Haemophilia Society, and certainly not a financial relationship. I do not know if organisational support was offered to Treloars from the Society.

The Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting on 11 July 1968 ***[HSOC0029691_099]*** *state that Dr Rainsford had been appointed at Treloars. How, if at all, was the Society involved in the running and management of Treloars?*

37. I was not aware that the Society was involved in the running and management of Treloars.

The Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting on 6 June 1968 ***[HSOC0029691_098]*** *state that funding was provided by the National Fund for Research into Crippling Diseases for a Doctor* "to investigate methods to relieve acute joint and muscle haemorrhages." *What role, if any, did the Society have in funding research projects at Treloars? [Please also see* ***AMRE0000012_042*** *in relation to funding by the Haemophilia Society].*

38. I do not remember the Haemophilia Society fundraising for research projects at Treloars. As far as I can remember Tony Philips was the treasurer of the society during this time, and he may have had a better understanding of what the Society was funding.

Section 6: Other Issues

To the best of your knowledge, at any point, did Haemophilia Society staff and committee-members purposefully or unintentionally destroy documents relevant to the Terms of Reference of the Infected Blood Inquiry?

39. No, not that I am aware off.

Please explain, in as much detail as you are able to, any other matters that you believe may be of relevance to the Infected Blood Inquiry, having regard to its Terms of Reference and to the current List of Issues.

40. As my limited involvement with the Haemophilia Society's executive committee was such a long time ago, it is difficult to recall specific details about discussions that may have happened.

41. The committee had about 8 to 10 members when I was a part of it. There was not much turnover within the executive committee, and things were pretty stable while I was a part of it. Meetings were generally well attended.

42. I remember that Ken Poulton was secretary of the Society when I was on the executive committee, and as I mentioned above, Mr Hunter was the chairman and Tony Philips was the treasurer. Tony, who lived in GRO-C, used to pick me up sometimes and we would go to

meetings together. He worked at the Inland Revenue and he was a very good treasurer. I also remember John Prothero and Mr Morris being involved with the committee. Reverend Tanner was a committee member at the time when I was involved with the committee.

43. While I was part of the executive committee of the Society, meetings were held at the fire station located on Southwark Bridge Road, London. After I left the committee, I believe they moved offices. Things were always very informal and we never needed to have any emergency meetings to discuss anything. I think we met about once a month or so, it was not very often. If I missed a meeting, I do not remember minutes being posted to me and I would just catch up on what I had missed at the next meeting.

44. I know that the Society was becoming more formal as I left the committee, but I do not know if this was a conscious decision. I do not remember this being an issue discussed with the committee while I was still involved. I think the increasing formality was also increasing the workload of committee members as well, and this is why I decided to leave the committee, as I no longer had time for it.

45. We always had a Society newsletter, but it used to be nowhere near as elaborate as it is now. I am not sure if treatment advice was given as part of this newsletter, but I do not think that the Society would be involved in providing advice about any treatment in those days.

46. The funding for Society activities involved asking for personal donations and doing collections. We put collection boxes in shops, pubs and other venues and all of us in the committee got involved with putting collection boxes out. This could be done across the country in a coordinated manner or at a local level. It was all very basic. I don't remember receiving funding from any pharmaceutical companies or any other organisations at the time and I don't recollect any Committee discussions

about such an approach being made. The local groups would come up with ideas to fundraise and we very much relied on personal donations.

47. I vaguely remember the local groups organising get togethers, but I'm not sure how they were funded. I can't be sure whether they were simply fund-raising events or like an annual AGM. They could have been a bit of both. Most of them were held at hospitals as this saved the cost of hiring a venue. I remember events held at Bournemouth Hospital and one at Leeds General Infirmary, where I met Jimmy Saville.

48. The Society had a Christmas party each year, and we did a lot of the catering ourselves which shows the scale. My wife remembers bringing plates of food for these parties. Sir Weldon Dalrample-Champneys was the president of the Society when I was involved, and although we did not see much of him the rest of the year, he would always give a speech at the Christmas party.

49. After I left the committee sometime after 1971, I still remained a member of the Society but I was not involved in any decision making and stopped keeping up to date with the latest developments. My family became and remained my main priority.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed GRO-C

Dated 04-02-21.