

Witness Name: Professor Christine Ann Lee

Statement No: WITN0644057

Exhibits: 0

Dated: August 2020

## **INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY**

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### **SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN STATEMENT OF PROFESSOR CHRISTINE ANN LEE**

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I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 5 April 2019. This statement is made in addition to my first statement dated 10 May 2019 (**WITN0644001**).

I, Professor Christine Ann Lee, will say as follows:

#### **Section 1: Introduction**

1. My name, address, date of birth and professional qualifications are detailed in my first statement (**WITN0644001**).
2. In addition, I was the Founding Editor in 1995 and Chief Editor until 2013 of the journal *Haemophilia*, published by Wiley Blackwell.

#### **Section 2: Criticism by Della Hirsch**

3. This statement is made in addition to my first statement dated 10 May 2019 (**WITN0644001**).
4. Following my consideration of the transcript of the evidence provided by Mrs DRH to the Inquiry on 9 May 2019, I make the following additional comments in response to her criticisms.

**Response to Question 6 – “Mrs Hirsch claims that you advised Nick by letter that he had been exposed to Variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease but failed to provide any further explanation about his exposure. Please comment on this.”**

5. Firstly, I would like to correct an error within this criticism and my first witness statement. The letter of 2 December 1997 (as exhibited to Mrs DRH’s statement as **WITN0282027**) has been repeatedly referred to as my letter; this is incorrect. Whilst I contributed to the drafting of this letter, it was agreed by and sent on behalf of the Royal Free Hospital Haemophilia Centre & Haemostasis Unit as a whole, and not myself personally. This is shown by the letter being signed off by Dr John Pasi, Dr David Perry and myself.
6. DRH’s criticism relates to that letter and the discussions with Mrs DRH and NH’s appointments on 2 and 3 December 1997. I note by reference to NH’s medical records (as exhibited to my first statement as **WITN0644001/11**) that I was not involved in these discussions or appointments. Instead, these attendances were with Dr David Perry and Christine Harrington (Nurse Consultant).
7. In addition, I recall that I was not working at the time of these communications, as I had taken time off work to undergo the inpatient surgical procedure of laparoscopic cholecystectomy. Whilst I was on leave, Dr John Pasi was acting as Clinical Director, as shown by Christine Harrington’s note in NH’s records on 2 December 1997: *“I noted that I would need to OK this with Dr Pasi as acting Centre Director.”*
8. In any event, the medical records highlight that Christine Harrington agreed with Mrs DRH on 2 December 1997 that a generic letter could be sent to NH, to be followed up with a detailed discussion during an appointment in due course: *“After some discussion we agreed that a letter could be sent with general issues re CJD & asking him to make an appointment to discuss”*. NH attended the Centre the following day, on 3 December 1997, when he was seen by Christine Harrington and Dr David Perry and this matter was discussed: *“Nicholas attended to pick up home treatment. Dr David Perry & I saw him to discuss CJD & lack of evidence of transmission via blood or blood products. Informed him that he had received recalled batch 8Y FHB4419 in 1995. His main concern*

was Hep C & the possibility of starting combination therapy. Given letter with info from the consultant staff."

9. I did not become involved with counseling NH regarding his diagnosis until his next review on 27 January 1998 (as exhibited to my first statement as **WITN0644001/12**), during which he expressed no concerns regarding vCJD.

**Statement of Truth**

I believe the facts as stated in this witness statement are true. I understand that proceedings for contempt of court may be brought against anyone who makes, or causes to be made, a false statement in a document verified by a statement of truth without an honest belief in its truth.

Signed

GRO-C: Christine Lee

Dated

August 26<sup>th</sup> 2020