

Witness Name: Professor Christine Ann Lee Statement

No: WITN0644174

Exhibits: WITN0644024; WITN0644175-WITN0644179

Dated: 10 June 2021

## INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

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### WRITTEN STATEMENT OF PROFESSOR CHRISTINE ANN LEE

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I provide this statement in response to letter I received under Rule 13 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 7 December 2020 in relation to the witness statement Witness 0097 ("DW").

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

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

1. My name is Christine Ann Lee and my address is GRO-C  
GRO-C My date of birth is GRO-C 1943. I hold the following professional qualifications – MA (Oxon) 1969 BM BCh (1969) MD (London) 1989, DSc (Med) (1996) FRCP (1990) FRCPath (1994) FRCOG (2010). A copy of my CV is exhibited **[WITN0644024]**.
2. I have held the following positions as a haematologist for the following organisations and set out below my roles and responsibilities in each of these positions:

Dates	Position	Roles and responsibilities
September 1974 - June 1976	Registrar to Dr J Fielding, Department of Haematology, St Mary's Hospital	Laboratory and clinical; responsible in a district general hospital for the general haematology service. Six-month on call for emergency out of

		hours haematology including blood transfusion.
November 1976 - December 1982 (part-time)	Senior Registrar to Professor PT Flute, Department of Haematology, St George's Hospital Medical School. This included appointments at St James Hospital, Balham, Royal Marsden Hospital Sutton and South London Blood Transfusion Centre.	This appointment was under government scheme HM (69)6, known as The Women Doctors' Retention Scheme, which enabled female doctors with family commitments to work part time. Provision of haematology service and preparation for Membership of Royal College of Pathologists qualifying examination, achieved June 1982. During this time I provided some care for the small number of patients with haemophilia who attended St George's Hospital.
January 1983 - October 1984	Research Senior Registrar to Dr PBA Kernoff and Dr HC Thomas, Royal Free Hospital	Action Research Fellowship to study non-A non-B hepatitis in haemophilic patients. This work contributed to the dissertation for MD University of London awarded in 1989, entitled "The Natural History, Prevention and Treatment of Viral Hepatitis in Haemophilic patients."
November 1984 - November 1987	Senior Lecturer in Haematology, Charing Cross and Westminster Medical School and Honorary Consultant Haematologist, Queen Mary University Hospital, Roehampton, London	Single handed consultant haematologist responsible for the clinical and laboratory haematology service in the busy district general hospital, Queen Mary's University Hospital, Roehampton, part of Charing Cross and Westminster Medical School. I was also Senior

		Lecturer and provided regular teaching to undergraduate medical students.
September 1985 - November 1987	AIDS counsellor Richmond, Twickenham and Roehampton Health District	Responsibility for provision of HIV testing service using the newly developed test. Responsibility for providing education about HIV/AIDS to every secondary school within the borough of Richmond upon Thames.
April 1986 - November 1987	Honorary Consultant in Haematology Haemophilia Centre and Haemostasis Unit, Royal Free Hospital, 2 sessions (1 day) per week.	There was no patient contact and these sessions were to prepare research for publication.
November 1987 - December 2005	Consultant Haematologist Haemophilia Centre and Haemostasis Unit, Royal Free Hospital, London.	Particular care for patients infected with HIV and hepatitis.  Together with the director, Dr Peter Kernoff, I provided comprehensive care for people with haemophilia – the largest haemophilia centre in the UK with a patient population equivalent to the whole of Scotland and Northern Ireland. There was also provision of care for patients within the Royal Free Hospital who developed bleeding or thrombotic problems. There was a large anticoagulant clinic.
April 1991 - April 1992	Acting Director Haemophilia Centre and Haemostasis Unit, Royal	The Director was not able to work again for health reasons. Overnight I had to take responsibility for the

	Free Hospital, London	whole Unit as acting Director.
April 1992 - December 2005	Director Haemophilia Centre and Haemostasis Unit, Royal Free Hospital, London	<p>As Director I was responsible for service delivery and management of a staff of 70 including physicians, nurses, physiotherapists, laboratory scientists and counsellors. Although I was an NHS employee, I also conducted research. Relevant to this enquiry, 4 of 18 MD or PhD theses I supervised were about hepatitis:</p> <p>(1) Dr Paul Telfer 1991-4 MD University of Oxford 'HCV infection in haemophilic patients';</p> <p>(2) Dr Helen Devereux 1992-6 PhD University of London 'The molecular biology of HCV infection in haemophilia';</p> <p>(3) Dr Thynn Thynn Yee 1998-2001 MD University of London 'The side effects of therapy for haemophilia';</p> <p>(4) Dr Esteban Herrero 1998-2001 PhD University of London 'The molecular basis of HIV and HCV interactions'.</p>
January 2006 - present	Emeritus Professor of Haemophilia, University College London	The title Professor of Haemophilia within University of London was an honorary title awarded in 1997 for my work in haemophilia. There was international peer review of my contribution. It was the first professorship in haemophilia in the UK.

April 2007 - April 2010	Honorary Consultant Haematology, Oxford Haemophilia and Thrombosis Centre	Responsibility for women with bleeding disorders.
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3. Since May 2010, I have retired from clinical practice.
4. I hold and have held membership of the following committees or groups relevant to the terms of reference:
  - a. April 1991 – December 2005: Member of UK Haemophilia Centre Doctors Organisation
  - b. 1996-2003: Chair of International Haemophilia Training Centres Committee, World Federation Haemophilia
  - c. 1993-2005: Member of Medical Advisory Panel, Haemophilia Society of UK
  - d. 1996-2000: World Federation of Haemophilia Executive with special responsibility for WFH/WHO relationship.
5. I also gave evidence as an independent expert witness at the Tribunal of Inquiry into the Infection with HIV and Hepatitis C of Persons with Haemophilia and Related Matters, which was chaired by Her Honour Judge Alison Lindsay in Ireland. The resulting report was published in 2002 and is available online.
6. I was the Founding Editor in 1995 and Chief Editor until 2013 of the journal *Haemophilia*, published by Wiley Blackwell.
7. In 1996, I was awarded a DSc (Med) by the University of London. The submission included 86 peer reviewed papers published over the 10 year period 1985-1996 and represented a consistent contribution to the understanding of transfusion transmitted disease in patients with haemophilia. The papers described two cohorts of Royal Free Hospital haemophilic patients who were infected with human deficiency virus (HIV-1) and the hepatitis C virus (HCV).

## **Section 2: Background information regarding DW**

8. I make this statement on the basis of the medical records for DW which have been disclosed to me by the Royal Free Hospital. I have appended to this statement only a selection of those records which relate to the care I provided and which may be relevant to the concerns that have been raised.
9. DW attended the Royal Free Hospital between 1995 and 2000. He was a patient who originated from Guernsey and who was referred by the Luton and Dunstable Hospital to my colleague Dr John Pasi, consultant haematologist, for orthopaedic problems. He was first seen at the Royal Free on 1 May 1995 by Dr Pasi, who referred him to the orthopaedic surgeons. DW had been diagnosed with haemophilia A and HCV some time before his referral to the Royal Free. He was using prophylaxis for his haemophilia.
10. My involvement in DW's care was limited to seeing him in the joint liver/haemophilia clinic (with Drs Mistry, DuSheiko and **GRO-D**) and the joint orthopaedic/haemophilia clinic (with Mr Ribbans and Mr Goddard) as well as occasionally seeing him for reviews in the Centre. **[WITN0644175 - WITN0644177]**
11. I saw DW for a review in the Centre on 28 April 1998 which was after Dr Pasi had left **[WITN0644177]**. We had a long discussion about his HCV infection and I recommended HAV vaccination.
12. DW did not use home treatment as advised. Combination therapy for HCV required strict adherence and for this reason it was not commenced by Dr **GRO-D** when he was seen in the liver clinic on 18 January 1999 **[WITN0644175]**.
13. A further review was conducted by me on 25 May 1999 **[WITN0644177]**. DW had been involved in a recent road traffic accident and was planning on having a baby with his girlfriend.
14. On 7 September 1999, I reviewed DW at the Centre **[WITN0644177]**. DW attended with his girlfriend to request a medical report for an **GRO-C**  
**GRO-C** I submitted a medical report on 9 September 1999 summarising his condition **[WITN0644178]**. Following submission of

my report, DW's solicitor wrote to me on 6 October 1999 regarding the use of cannabis to relieve his pain. I did not provide any further information [WITN0644179].

15. On 6 June 2000, DW did not attend for a planned review. When the receptionist telephoned him, she was informed that he has transferred to Basingstoke Hospital. He had no further treatment at the Royal Free.

### **Section 3: Criticism by DW**

***Response to Question 1 – 'At paragraph 77 to 78 of witness W0097's statement, the witness states you always felt you knew what was best and that you disregarded haemophiliacs like himself.'***

16. This is a very general criticism and no specific examples have been provided so it is somewhat difficult to respond. However, I wholly dispute that I disregarded any of my patients. I was extremely devoted to the care of all my patients at the Royal Free as well as at other centres. DW was no exception.

***Response to Question 2 – 'At paragraph 79 of witness W0097's statement, the witness states you scoffed at the idea of compensation for haemophiliacs who had been infected with contaminated blood.'***

17. I don't recall ever discussing compensation for haemophiliacs who had been infected with contaminated blood. I assisted many of my patients with seeking assistance from charities such as the Skipton Fund and the Macfarlane Trust. In relation to the issue of compensation, I refer to the response to Question 162 within my Rule 9 statement dated 23 September 2020 as well as the oral evidence that I gave to the Inquiry on 20 and 21 October 2020.

***Response to Question 3 – 'At paragraph 80 of witness W0097's statement, the witness states your treatment of him was negligible'.***

18. Once again, this is a very generic criticism, with no specific example given. DW was only seen at the Royal Free between 1995 and 2000 and my involvement in his treatment

was limited but I would dispute that it was 'negligible'. I always did my best for my patients and DW would have been no different. I advised DW in relation to his HCV infection, reviewed him in the combined clinics and at the Centre and wrote a report for his solicitor at his request.

**Statement of Truth**

I believe the facts statement 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

Dated June 10<sup>th</sup> 2021

**Table of exhibits:**

Date	Notes/ Description	Exhibit number
18.04.2019	Professor CL's CV	WITN0644024
Various	Clinical notes and letters from Royal Free Hospital Haemophilia Centre	WITN0644175
Various	Clinical notes and letters from Royal Free Hospital Haemophilia Centre	WITN0644176
Various	Clinical notes and letters from Royal Free Hospital Haemophilia Centre	WITN0644177
09.09.99	Medical report prepared by Professor CL	WITN0644178
October 1999	Letters between Downs Solicitors & Notaries and Professor CL	WITN0644179