

Witness Name: Ian Nussey
Statement No.: WITN0744001
Exhibits: WITN0744002 - 003
Dated: 14.5.2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF IAN NUSSEY

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 21st March 2019.

I, IAN NUSSEY OBE PhD FREng, will say as follows: -

Introduction

1. My name is Ian Nussey. My date of birth is GRO-C 1936, and my address is known to the Inquiry. My interest in this matter is wholly ex gratia. I intend to speak about my late father, Dr Adolph Marcus Nussey MD FRCP, born in 1905, who was the author of two published letters in The Times. The subject of these articles discussed the malfeasant procurement of blood and blood products into the UK. This may be a matter of due diligence for the inquiry.
2. At this point, I do not feel that I require legal representation and I am not concerned about issues of anonymity.

Other Issues

3. My father's, Dr A.M. Nussey, credentials include, a Gold Medal and five other prizes while qualifying at the Middlesex Hospital. He received a Class B level Distinction Award while serving as General Physician at Selly Oak Hospital Birmingham, and serviced as President to the Birmingham Medical Institute. Throughout his career he also published profusely, within academic medical journals from 1934-1953.
4. Dr A.M. Nussey was a General Physician, a highly trained specialist, who provided a range of non-surgical health care to adult patients. He would be involved with patients suffering difficult, serious or unusual medical issues and continued to see these patients until their problems were resolved or stabilised. At the time that my father was practicing medicine, it was incumbent upon General Physicians to gain a wide depth of knowledge on a variety of medical conditions. Those expectations are unlike those within the NHS today where physicians generally become experts in one particular medical field.
5. In other words, due to the then practice of the NHS, my father was expected to be a master in a wide range of topics and therefore he had a holistic grasp of medical conditions. His range of expertise was recognised through his Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians (FRCP), which is a peer-elected accolade held by some of the most exceptional and innovative physicians in the world. It marks significant achievement and skill as a doctor and recognises their ongoing professional contributions.
6. I recall that my father was deeply disturbed by what he saw as an unsafe, penny-pinching factor VIII procurement practice and neglectful attitude to HIV infection testing, expressed by leaders of the British Medical Association. He voiced these concerns at the Birmingham Medical Institute meetings, where he sat as President. The widow of my father's

close friend, (Mavis Abbott and her husband Derek Abbott) recollects that these were frequent and animated discussions.

7. I do not have knowledge of any communication that my father may have had with the British Haematological Society, regarding his concerns.
8. I am aware my father went on public record through two letters published in The Times. The one that my wife and I recollected that prompted me to prepare this input to the Inquiry, was published on page 17 of the December 3 1986 issue, (exhibit WITN0744002). A subsequent, Cambridge Library archive search then revealed a second relevant communication that appeared on page 13, of the July 9 1987 edition, (exhibit WITN0744003). It does seem that together these articles provide compelling evidence of medical authorities condoning poor and unprofessional procurement practices.
9. The subject of his first article (3rd December 1986) in The Times was titled the 'Fight against Aids.' Here Dr Nussey noted that the infection of haemophiliacs with HIV could have been avoided, *'had we striven to rely on our own production of the anti-haemophilic (VIII) factor.'* Dr Nussey further asserts that in relation to UK donations of blood:

'There has also been enough to spare here for the processing of specialised products such as factor VIII but even now we buy from the USA about 50%. In connection with this, it is known that blood, which is habitually obtained by purchase in the States, quite frequently comes from tainted individuals and this is particularly dangerous when it is pooled for processing'.
10. Dr Nussey also acknowledged it is rare for UK donors to be 'sero-positive' and highlights the benefits of protective measures such as screening, but highlights that *'we cannot be sure that the reported mutations of the virus might not make detection more difficult.'* He concludes by noting that *'it is more than ever advisable to increase our reliance on home-produced factor VIII, even if, in the interim, the*

achievement of self-sufficiency would make the product a little more expensive than the import.'

11. The subject matter of his second article (9th July 1987) in The Times concerned Doctors' and patients' Aids rights. Here Dr Nussey notes that:

'The leadership of the BMA has come out strongly against doctors exercising their clinical judgment in doing a test for HIV infection without prior consent of patients'.

12. I have been asked if I could obtain details of any person(s), that may be willing to assist the inquiry in its search for, information and possible evidence on these matters. I have suggested contacting the Birmingham Medical Institute secretary to see if any of their older members recall Dr Nussey discussing their matters with them. I would be happy to help this inquiry in any way that I am able.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed _____

GRO-C

Dated _____

14. 5. 2019