

Witness Name: Nicholas Sainsbury

Statement No: WITN1800003

Exhibits: WITN1800004-8

Dated: April 2021

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

SECOND WRITTEN STATEMENT OF NICHOLAS SAINSBURY

I, Nicholas Sainsbury will say as follows:-

Section 1: Introduction

1. My name is stated above and the Inquiry is aware of my address and date of birth.
2. I make this statement in relation to the Rule 9 Request dated 14 April 2021 concerning the visit I made to Alliance House on 17 April 2013.

Section 2: Alliance House visit

3. I attended Alliance House with colleagues from the Contaminated Blood Campaign ("CBC") including Glen Wilkinson, Alison Wilkinson, Lesley Brownless, GRO-A, GRO-A and Ollie Carruthers on 17 April 2013. We were a fairly new campaigning group and were in London for a separate meeting elsewhere and thought we would call in to Alliance House to drop in our latest campaign document to make them aware of our group and its objectives. This is referred to in WITN1800006 as a report.

4. Upon arrival we rang the doorbell to be admitted to the building as the door was locked. The door was answered by a staff member called Kat. Glenn Wilkinson explained to her that we wished to introduce ourselves as a new campaign group and provide them with our latest Campaign Document. We were then granted access to the building on this basis.
5. Kat went ahead and unlocked a further internal door for us and lead us through to a small office where approximately 7 staff and I believe, a couple of auditors were seated. The staff were sat at their desks. We kept a respectful distance near the door and introduced ourselves and explained to the rest of the staff the purpose of our visit. One or two people introduced themselves including Nick Fish but there was limited interaction and we were met with a stony silence. After spending an awkward 5-10 minutes being mostly ignored, we decided to leave given the unpleasant atmosphere towards us. At no point were we asked to leave.
6. During the entirety of our visit we were calm and polite. Mr Roger Evans, in his evidence, stated that we intimidated the Alliance House staff with our body language. This is both insulting and ridiculous as we didn't approach the desks or anyone there, I do not know how this could be construed as intimidating.
7. Roger Evans did not clarify what he meant by this intimidation except to say that one of the people present was a large guy who had allegedly threatened him at an APPG meeting. Whilst there was a verbal altercation at a subsequent APPH meeting, this did not occur until after our visit to Alliance House.
8. Roger Evans alleges nobody knew the reason for our visit and we should have requested a meeting with Alliance House instead. We had spent six months emailing requests for such a meeting but never received a reply. Given neither Jan Barlow nor Roger Evans were present at Alliance House during our visit it is perhaps unsurprising that their second/third hand accounts are completely inaccurate. There has as far as I am aware, never been a single statement or report of any kind from any office staff that corroborates their account of our visit.

Section 3: Correspondence with Roger Evans

9. Following our visit I received a letter from Roger Evans dated 29 April 2013. I no longer have a copy of this letter due to the upset it caused me as it was not an accurate portrayal of what happened. A few days later in an attempt to clarify the situation I rang Roger Evans to explain the purpose of our visit but I was unable to as he cut me off as soon as I began to speak. I continued trying to explain that a mistake had been made but he started shouting at me so I hung up.
10. I was aware that his letter to me of 29 April 2013 had been posted on the Macfarlane Trust ("MFT") forum at the behest of Roger Evans on the 1 May 2013. [WITN1800004] Naturally I was very upset that the letter has been made public as this was deeply embarrassing for me. The whole episode left me distraught as did the bullying that I subsequently received on the MFT forum. I believe that this was Roger Evans motive for publishing the letter as he did. I resigned as a permanent member of the CBC team a short time afterwards partly due to this upset and embarrassment. I received many more messages of support from the community than negative ones although the supportive messages were sent privately to avoid reprisals.
11. Following publication of the letter I again tried to explain our attendance at Alliance House and on 4 May 2013 I wrote to Roger Evans requesting that the letter be taken down from the forum. [WITN1800005] I was anxious for the letter to be removed as it was embarrassing, inaccurate and contained my private details. I received a response from Roger Evans on 20 May 2013 in which he dismissed my concerns and refused to take the letter down from the forum [WITN1800006].
12. He claimed that he had asked for the letter that he sent me to be posted on the forum as "a deterrent to others". This was vindictive and without cause. He did not care about the distress he caused me and sought to make an example of our visit. He was aware of my vulnerable status of being a severely disabled haemophiliac and who is HIV positive as I was a beneficiary of the MFT. The letter came at a particularly traumatic time of my life when despite my own problems I was supporting both my elderly mother who was in poor health, and a much loved cousin who was dying of liver cancer. My mother died in July 2013 with my cousin following in November 2014.
13. Alongside this difficult time, I was being receiving Interferon to treat Hepatitis C. This was very debilitating, causing several distressing side effects, including severe

clinical depression. This made me feel life was not worth living on some days. I think Roger Evans was particularly irresponsible with his behaviour in light of the conditions from which I was suffering. I believe had this happened to someone with severe mental health issues it could have caused a person to self-harm or worse.

14. Whilst we attended Alliance House as a group, I was the only person contacted by Roger Evans in relation to our visit. I believe that I was targeted because I was the only person who was a MFT beneficiary. They could have written to CBC quite easily as we had contacted them on several occasions to request a meeting. I enclose the statement of the CBC which was written by Glenn Wilkinson. This was released after the fallout of the incident to explain our attendance at Alliance House and was published on the CBC forum. [WITN1800007]

15. Further, if the accusations of intimidation and breaking in were at all credible, any organisation would surely want to deal with the group responsible as a group rather than singling out an individual. Roger Evans has stated that the incident "was a Caxton matter" which raises the question as to why he chose to get involved at all.

16. Roger Evans ended his evidence by saying "you have to act robustly when a building is broken into" and that "emotions were running high". This virtually implies we burgled the place which grossly distorts what happened. As for his excuse for his actions, he neglects to mention the emotions of those he treated so badly, in which I include myself.

Section 4: Conclusion

17. I believe all of this could have been avoided had it been made clear that personal visits to Alliance House were no longer permissible. We had in our possession, a leaflet which said beneficiaries could make an appointment or simply take pot luck in attending. [WITN1800008]

18. I believe that both Jan Barlow and Roger Evans showed very little empathy or concern for the people they were supposed to help and were totally unsuitable to work with our community.

19. In conclusion I would like to say that not all dealings with the various staff of Alliance House were negative and many of the problems were caused by the fact that we

were treated as charitable beneficiaries. I also accept that some beneficiaries may not always been easy to deal with because of their illnesses and poor financial situation. I do believe however that the management of Alliance House and the various schemes were very poor to say the least and this incident, along with many other incidents illustrate that.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed GRO-C _____

Dated 6 May 2021 _____