

Witness Name: Elizabeth Helen Carroll  
Statement No.: WITN3078001  
Exhibits: WITN3078002 - WITN3078004  
Dated: 25 April 2019

## **INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY**

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### **THIRD WRITTEN STATEMENT OF ELIZABETH HELEN CARROLL**

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1. I provide this statement in response to a request made by the Infected Blood Inquiry under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 4 April 2019. I have been asked to respond to paragraphs 99, 103 and 117 only of the First Written Statement of Clair Walton dated 22 February 2019.
2. I, Elizabeth Helen Carroll will say as follows:-

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

3. My name is Elizabeth Helen Carroll. I am the current Chief Executive of The Haemophilia Society ("The Society") whose registered address is Willcox House, 140 – 148 Borough High Street, London, SE1 1LB. My date of birth is GRO-C 1970.
4. I started my professional life as a nurse and trained at St Bartholomew's Hospital in London. I worked as a cancer nurse for a number of years before going to work for a cancer charity. I later obtained a Masters degree in voluntary sector management.
5. I am the Chief Executive of The Haemophilia Society ("The Society"). This is my first chief executive role. I have been in post since January 2014.
6. My day-to-day responsibilities include, amongst other things:

- a. ensuring operational delivery of the strategic and annual plan and budget;
  - b. ensuring The Society complies with all legal and governance obligations;
  - c. liaising with Members and stakeholders to ensure The Society is relevant to its Members; and
  - d. delivering a meaningful impact.
7. I also carry out work in relation to policy that is relevant to haemophilia and other genetic bleeding disorders. The Society is a member of a number of advisory groups for NHS England and I sit on those as a representative of The Society. I also sit on the Tender Board of NHS England. The Tender Boards are made up of a group of professionals (specialist haemophilia doctors, nurses, the patient organisation and commissioners) that make decisions about what is required for a safe and compliant commercial tender on bleeding disorders treatments and home delivery. The Tender Board then review the submissions from companies to the tender process to ensure compliance. There are different tender processes for different treatments. These are managed by the Commercial Medicines Unit at NHS England and follow legal requirements for commercial tenders. Following this the products or home deliver company will be approved to be on a framework. The commissioners decide which treatments will be funded from the framework, or make decisions/recommendations about best value products. In some tenders the devolved Nations commission NHS England to also deliver the framework for Scotland and Wales.
8. I occasionally attend our services and events to meet members and to ensure good practice. I see members fairly frequently and have contact with them at least two or three times a week by telephone or email.

#### **Response to paragraph 99 of Clair Walton's statement**

##### *Trustees of The Society as Trustees of the McFarlane Trust*

9. When I joined The Society in 2014, The Society had nominated two trustees to The McFarlane Trust (the "MFT"); GRO-A and Matt Gregory. One of these

trustees, GRO-A was a trustee of The Society and the MFT. I understand that when the MFT was established around fifty per cent of its trustees were also trustees of The Society, however, this reduced over time.

10. It is my understanding that The Society was asked to nominate trustees to sit on the MFT board at the appropriate three year intervals in accordance with the Deed of Amendment dated 30 April 2012 (WITN3078002). Once nominated it was for the MFT to accept those nominations and then the individual would be voted onto the MFT board. The Society therefore simply nominated trustees and had no further involvement in the appointment process. As this was before my time at The Society, this is my understanding of the process, but I do not have first-hand experience of this.
11. As stated above, there were times when the same people were appointed as trustees of The Society and the MFT; this did not prevent The Society from being independent from the MFT. During my tenure as Chief Executive of The Society, trustees of The Society who have served on the board of the MFT have not shared information or reported to The Society in any way in respect of MFT work.
12. On 19 March 2015, the MFT informed The Society that they would no longer accept nominations from The Society for its trustees to serve on the MFT board. The Chair of the MFT at that time, Rodger Evans, communicated this by email to The Society's former Chair, Bernard Manson. Bernard then relayed this information to me.

#### *Independence of The Society*

13. I have previously worked with Alistair Burt MP and the All-Party Parliamentary Group (the "APPG") on Haemophilia and Contaminated Blood to get questions asked in Parliament about the MFT and together we did a lot of work in relation to the transparency of the MFT. Questions raised were about how funding was allocated and how people felt they were treated by the Trust. We were asking for a review of how the trusts were operating and funded.

14. In 2014 The Society suggested to the APPG that they may wish to hold a formal inquiry to investigate the support available for those affected by the contaminated blood scandal, to include how the MFT and the other support schemes treated their applicants. The purpose of this investigation was to lobby the government to provide more money to the scheme beneficiaries and to highlight how people were feeling as a result of the actions of the MFT. This report contributed towards the push for a public inquiry. In my opinion, the fact The Society suggested the APPG to investigate the MFT and other schemes and published the APPG's resulting report shows that The Society is independent from the MFT.

*Interaction with Clair Walton*

15. My first interaction with Clair Walton was in approximately 2014. I had further contact with Clair in 2016 regarding the charge the MFT had put on her property. It is my understanding that when her husband was terminally ill, she had asked the MFT for a loan and it had been refused. The MFT had instead put a charge on their home. Alistair Burt MP, Nadhim Zahawi MP and I had numerous conversations at the time to support her and to try and find a resolution.
16. Clair felt very strongly that this charge should be discharged. She could not get an answer from the MFT in relation to this and asked me to contact the trustees of the MFT whom The Society had nominated previously, GRO-A and Matt Gregory.
17. I forwarded the chain of emails that had been exchanged between Clair and me to GRO-A and Matt Gregory on 22 March 2016 (WITN3078003). I said in my email that as this was a matter for the MFT, I did not need to see the response from the MFT. I did not think it was appropriate for me to get involved any further given that I was not a trustee of the MFT. I did not receive a response from the MFT.

**Response to paragraph 103 of Clair Walton's statement**

18. I am unclear what Clair means when she states "*I do wonder if some of the younger beneficiaries who grew up with the Haemophilia Society and the MFT were groomed into the "charitable" ways of the Trust.*" The Society and the MFT are separate and distinct organisations and as I have set out above The Society operates independently from the MFT. The Society has no reason to "groom" anyone into thinking positively about the MFT. As described at paragraphs 13 and 14 above, The Society sought to challenge the way the MFT was treating beneficiaries by working to get questions asked in Parliament and asking for the MFT to be investigated by the APPG.
19. The Society treats all its members equally and have supported members, including Clair, who have challenged the practices of the MFT.

**Response to paragraph 117 of Clair Walton's statement**

20. As stated above, trustees of the MFT were not appointed by The Society. They were nominated by The Society, as set out in The McFarlane Trust, Deed of Amendment dated 30 April 2012 at Schedule 2, paragraph 10 (WITN3078002). The MFT then decided whether or not to accept The Society's nomination. The Trustees of the MFT did not act as representatives of The Society while serving on the board of the MFT.
21. There have been no trustees of The Society nominated to the MFT following my appointment as Chief Executive of The Society. It is my understanding that there were no requirements to be a beneficiary of the MFT in order to be a trustee of it. Age was also not a relevant factor for nomination, save for a nominee had to be over 18 years of age. What was important was the connection to the haemophilia community and the ability to be a voice for it.

**Response to paragraph 118 of Clair Walton's statement**

22. I spoke with Clair at the Preliminary hearings and we discussed the ongoing difficulties she was having with the MFT in respect of the charge on her property. During this conversation Clair also asked if any discussions had taken place in respect of the MFT's assets and liabilities being transferred to The Society upon the winding up of the MFT. I informed Clair that I was unaware of any discussions in respect of this. This conversation was followed up with an e-mail exchange where I confirmed that no discussions had taken place between The Society and the MFT in respect of the transfer of any assets or liabilities (WITN3078004). At the time of the Preliminary Hearings of the Inquiry, GRO-A was the only Trustee of The Society who was also a Trustee of the MFT. GRO-A stood down as a Trustee of The Society in November 2018.
23. I can also confirm that the MFT did not transfer any assets or liabilities to The Society when it was wound up.

**Statement of Truth**

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

Signed GRO-C

Dated 26.4.19