

Witness Name: Elizabeth Helen Carroll

Statement No: WITN3078005

Exhibits: WITN3078006

Dated:

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF ELIZABETH HELEN CARROLL

I, ELIZABETH HELEN CARROLL of The Haemophilia Society, Willcox House, 140
– 148 Borough High Street, London, SE1 1LB, will say as follows:

1. I am the CEO of The Haemophilia Society ("the Society") and commenced employment in January 2014. I have no direct knowledge of the archiving of the documents by the Society prior to this date.
2. I have been directed to provide a witness statement by the Inquiry. Most of the information contained within this statement is based on information I have been given by past and/or present members of the Society. Where facts or information is within my own knowledge, I have stated this.
3. I understand that a group was formed in approximately 1948 and originally run by volunteers as a support network for people with haemophilia. The Society is now a registered UK wide charity for all those affected by bleeding disorders.
4. I exhibit a list of past and present President, Chair, Vice Chair and Board Members within the Society compiled through research by the Society as

exhibit WIT3078006. This includes, as far as possible, a timeline to assist the Inquiry.

5. I refer the Inquiry to the documentation that will be disclosed by the Society Board pursuant to the rule 9 request in relation to the detail that exists within the Society with respect to the membership of the Medical Advisor/ Advisory Committee.
6. I understand that the Society is willing to provide the disclosure requested subject to any legal entitlements that may exist including legal professional privilege and redaction in order to preserve personal data which is outside the context of the terms of reference. Also, I understand that the Society may require permission from certain individual members in respect of their personal data should this need to be disclosed.
7. I have been given an assurance from the Society Board ("the Board") that it will comply with any rule 9 or section 21 Notice validly served, as is its obligation. I am not the person in possession or with the power or indeed the procurement to be legally capable of disclosing the documentation requested by Inquiry from me.
8. I have been informed by the Board that it has nominated Barry Flynn to be the appropriate person for the purposes of the Inquiry to receive requests pursuant to rule 9 or section 21.
9. I have been advised that as I am not in control and possession and have no authority to deliver the documentation requested, that the rule 9 and section 21 Notices ought to have been directed to the Society Board as the governing body.
10. I respectfully request that the said notices against me in my personal capacity, be revoked and discharged.
11. I am informed that the Society and its legal representatives have been working diligently to comply with the request of the Inquiry.

12. In order to assist the Inquiry, I can provide the following information:
13. I am not aware of any formal systems of archives. As the Society grew over time documents were retained but still with no formal document retention policy that I am aware of. A range of documents were filed informally mainly in paper format, but I am unaware of the locations of where documents may have been stored in the years preceding my appointment and I am informed that there does not appear to be reference to external storage in Society documents. A few electronic documents were stored on the Society's computers.
14. I understand that a former Chairman and founder of the Society held certain of the Society's records in his office that was involved in the Bishopsgate bombing in London in 1993. Records were lost or destroyed at this time although I am not aware of the extent of this.
15. The Society moved offices on several occasions prior to 2014 and with each move it is possible that not all documentation was moved to each new location.
16. The Society moved to Willcox House from Hatton Garden in January 2015. At that point we moved the archive into an external storage facility as the new office did not have space to store it. I am not aware of any external storage being used before this point.
17. In December 2014 a general sift of the paper documents was conducted by me and another staff member. In the preparation for the move documents were boxed and any documents that appeared to be relevant to contaminated blood or the history of the organisation were placed in archive boxes and sent to an external storage Harrowgreen in Thurrock where they remain following scanning.
18. The retained documents amount to approaching 100 archive boxes that have been recently scanned electronically. These documents need to be reviewed for Legal Professional Privilege and for redaction of sensitive personal data such as viral status. This scanning is a significant burden on a small charitable

organisation such as this Society and it has not received any funding for the outlay which to date is in excess of several tens of thousands of pounds.

19. The Society has a database of membership details. This information stored on the Society CRM database contains sensitive personal data on individual members that is highly confidential and therefore security protected with restricted access. I am informed that the data has been entered in multiple ways over several years and is not in a searchable format. In any event the information is not relevant for the Inquiry as it contains data that is more recent.

20. To the best of my knowledge and belief the Society does not have any documents relating to Lindsay or Finlay.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed GRO-C

Dated 17.01.2019.