

Witness Name: Dr Michael Laffan

Statement No.: WITN3089002

Exhibits: NIL

Dated:

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF DR MICHAEL LAFFAN

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 23 May 2019.

I, Dr Michael Laffan, will say as follows: -

Section 1: Introduction

1. My name is Michael Arthur Laffan. I am 62 years of age having been born GRO-C GRO-C 1956. My address is known to the Inquiry.

2. My qualifications are:

- 1978 B.A Hons II Physiological Sciences
- 1981 B.M. B.Ch.
- 1984 M.R.C.P. (UK)
- 1991 M.R.C.Path
- 1993 DM
- 1996 FRCP
- 1999 FRCPPath

3. My employment history comprises:

Aug 1981- H.S. to Mr K. Lloyd-Williams, Royal United Hospital Bath.

Jan 1982

Feb 1982- H.P to Nuffield Department of Medicine.
July 1982 John Radcliffe Hospital Oxford

August 1982-5MEDICAL S.H.O ROTATION LEICESTER HOSPITALS
Training in acute medicine, clinical pharmacology, haematology, cardiology

Feb 1985- REGISTRAR IN HAEMATOLOGY
Jan 1987 Royal Postgraduate Medical School, Hammersmith Hospital, London

Jan 1987- MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL TRAINING FELLOW,
Dec 1989 Hon. Research Fellow, Hon. Senior Registrar,
Royal Postgraduate Medical School and Hammersmith Hospital.
Research position, no clinical duties.

Jan 1990 - SENIOR REGISTRAR IN HAEMATOLOGY
Mar 1992 Royal Free Hospital, London.
Training in haematology

April 1991 LOCUM CONSULTANT
Mar- 1992 Katherine Dormandy Haemophilia Centre,
Royal Free Hospital
Supervised responsibility for patients with disorders of coagulation.

April 1992- SENIOR LECTURER IN HAEMATOLOGY,
date Later (2007) PROFESSOR OF HAEMOSTASIS AND THROMBOSIS
Royal Postgraduate Medical School/ Imperial College London
HONORARY CONSULTANT, Hammersmith Hospital
Care of patients in general medicine and in general and non-malignant
haematology including coagulation disorders. Later reduced to haematology
only and finally to coagulation disorders only. Director of the Hammersmith
Hospital Haemophilia Centre.

4. From 2010 to 2017 I was Secretary to the UK Haemophilia Centre Doctor's Organisation.

Section 2: Response to criticism of Luke O'Shea Phillips

In paragraphs 15 and 16 of his statement, Mr O'Shea Phillips claims that he and his mother were informed of his hepatitis C (HCV) infection by way of a letter sent by you on 6 January 1997. This is despite the fact that he first tested positive for HCV in 1993 and that his medical records referenced his infected status several times before the date of your letter. Please comment on this.

5. I first met Luke in October 1993 when he attended the Hammersmith Hospital as an emergency because he had a bleed into one of his muscles. He had previously been under the care of University College Hospital. The previous test for hepatitis C (WTN1696007) was not available to me at that time.
6. Following his treatment at the Hammersmith Hospital we performed a test for hepatitis C antibodies which was positive and this was subsequently documented in his notes. I agree that it was in 1997 that I wrote to Ms O'Shea about this infection. As stated in my response to Ms O'Shea's statement, when writing the letter, I believed that Ms O'Shea was already aware of the diagnosis and it was not my intention to give her such important new information in this way. I would like to apologise again for this misunderstanding and the consequent delay in providing this information.
7. My intention in writing the letter was to arrange an opportunity to discuss the possibility of treatment of hepatitis C with Luke and his mother.

Section 3: Other Issues

8. There are no other matters that I wish to raise.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

GRO-C

Dated 3rd June 2019