

Witness Name: Jan Barlow
Statement No: WITN3108012
Exhibits: None
Dated: 21 February 2021

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF JAN BARLOW IN RESPONSE TO CRITICISM BY ROGER EVANS

I, Jan Barlow, will say as follows: -

I provide this statement in response to the Inquiry's letter dated 9 February 2021 notifying me of criticism made against me by Roger Evans in his statement to the Inquiry dated 4 February 2021. I note that similar criticisms are made in an earlier statement by Roger Evans dated 10 November 2019, at paragraph 41.

Response to paragraphs 318 and 319 of Roger Evans' statement

I reject any suggestion that I lacked integrity or was engaged in any form of collusion with Chris Pond, the Chair of the Caxton Foundation (CF), or anyone else at any time during my tenure. I can also state that to my knowledge, as the former Chief Executive of CF, there was no such "covert attempted takeover [of MFT] by CF". My recollection is that at the time of Roger Evans' resignation, in the summer of 2016, DHSC had set up/was in the process of setting up the Reference Group to which I refer at paragraph 191(a) of my fourth witness statement dated 22 December 2020, which as I recall was a forum for DHSC to take advice on implementing its proposed changes to the system of support for beneficiaries. My recollection is that this Group included board member representatives from all the Alliance House Organisations (AHOs) and that DHSC had asked Chris Pond to chair this Group. My recollection is also that DHSC did not invite Roger Evans to be a member of this Group.

As noted at paragraph 192 of my fourth witness statement, that same summer DHSC also announced that it intended to carry out a public procurement exercise to decide who would be the future the administrator for financial support for beneficiaries (ie the work that the AHOs

had hitherto carried out) and as I recall, the five AHOs agreed unanimously to work together to submit a joint bid. My recollection is that at no point was there any discussion that CF should submit an individual bid to “take over” the work of all of the AHOs, and in particular I did not advocate to DHSC officials that CF should “take over” MFT as alleged at paragraph 41 of Roger Evans’ first witness statement.

I also refute any implication that I had any unauthorised absences at this time, or at any other time during my tenure. CF acted as the employer for all staff and therefore in relation to my own employment, I reported to the Chair of CF, including reporting to him regarding annual leave etc.

STATEMENT OF TRUTH

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true based on my recollections and the documents provided to me by the Inquiry.

Signed

GRO-C

Dated 21 February 2021