

Witness Name: Sandra Elizabeth Carman

Witness number WITN3425011

Exhibits: na

Dated: October 2022

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF SANDRA ELIZABETH CARMAN

I provide this statement on behalf of Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust in response to the request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 27 September 2022.

I, Sandra Elizabeth Carman, will say as follows: -

Section 1: Introduction

1. My name is Sandra Elizabeth Carman and my address is Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, 8 Beech Hill Road, Sheffield, S10 2SB. My date of birth is GRO-C 1969 and my professional qualifications are: BSc in Occupational Therapy, MSc Healthcare Practice, IoD Diploma in Company Direction, Diploma in Human Resource Management.
2. My current role at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is that of Assistant Chief Executive. My responsibilities include: Corporate Governance and incorporate the role of Trust Secretary for the organisation.
3. I have prepared this statement on the basis of records held by Sheffield Teaching Hospitals. The records relevant to Mrs Lowe have been identified by the Trust's records and laboratory management teams.

Section 2: Response to witness W2700's criticism of W7084

4. Mrs Lowe was admitted to Sheffield Teaching Hospital (STH) on 9/5/14, via Accident and Emergency (A&E) and came under the care of the Cardiology Directorate. The medical records that we have obtained referred to Mrs Lowe in the A&E clerking as being "Hepatitis C positive" which was repeated several times during the hospital episode. Clerking is undertaken on admission and records details of the patient's medical history as provided by the patient or family members. On 14/5/14 it is noted that the Hepatitis C serology "cannot be found on ICE" and on 15/5/14 it is noted "documented in the clerking but not in the GP records". It is further noted, there is a plan to "chase up" the diagnosis of Hepatitis C but we have not been able to identify what steps may have been taken, despite the extensive searches that have been carried out.
5. No records have been identified on ICE (Integrated Clinical Environment), an integrated clinical database, of tests for Hepatitis C performed in STH on Mrs Lowe. We have identified two Hepatitis C serology tests from Rotherham General Hospital on Open Net – a system which allows access to results from other local hospitals - on 21/5/13 and 30/1/14. Both of these tests were negative. None of the Rotherham letters (including a detailed referral letter from a Rotherham Cardiologist to Leeds) mention Hepatitis C.
6. We have undertaken robust and extensive searches, including engaging with the Laboratory Managers and Medical Records Team. The teams were asked to conduct searches, both hard and electronic, to identify any further Hepatitis C results (aside from those mentioned). A multitude of systems were used to conduct these searches across both sites (STH and Rotherham), including Apex and Telepath, in addition to those already mentioned. Sadly the searches concluded that no other results were found, other than those already mentioned. In particular, we cannot access the result of the Hepatitis C test done in 2003, although this is stated in Dr Basumani's referral letter to be negative.
7. Following the comprehensive searches undertaken, and with no documentation that has been identified to support a positive test for Hepatitis C in respect of Mrs Lowe, our view is that the label of Hepatitis C, applied during Mrs Lowe's hospital episode in May 2014, is incorrect. We are unfortunately unable to validate why this reference in the A&E clerking was made, other than to note that diagnoses can be included in clerking notes on the basis of information provided by patients and their families.

Statement of Truth

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

GRO-C

Signed _____

26 October 2022

Dated _____