

Witness Name: David Birkenhead

Statement No.: WITN3448001

Exhibits: NIL

Dated: 12 June 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF DAVID BIRKENHEAD

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 22 May 2019.

I, David Birkenhead, of Calderdale & Huddersfield Foundation Trust, Huddersfield Royal Infirmary, Acre Street, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, HD3 3EA, born GRO-C 1964, will say as follows: -

Section 1: Introduction

1. I am currently employed as the Medical Director of Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust and have held this role since July 2015. As Medical Director I am an Executive Director and Board member of the Trust and my responsibilities include medical leadership, clinical standards, the medical workforce and improving patient care.

2. I qualified as a doctor in 1988 and my qualifications are as follows:
 - 1988 MB ChB (Manchester University), Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery
 - 1998 MD, Doctor of Medicine
 - 1999 Member, Royal College of Pathologists
 - 2006 Fellow Royal College of Pathologists

3. Given the nature of Ann Dorricott's statement, I have been asked to provide this response on behalf of Owen Williams, Chief Executive, in my capacity as Medical Director for the Trust.

Section 2: Response to Criticism of Ann Dorricott

4. I would firstly like to express my sincere condolences to Ann Dorricott and her family on the loss for her husband, Michael Paul Dorricott.
5. I can confirm that facts appear to be as detailed in Ann Dorricott statement and the medical records exhibited to this, with the exception of point 9 below. However, I am unable to provide any comment on what was discussed in relation to the use of Factor VIII and not Cryoprecipitate.
6. I have sought specialist advice on this matter from Dr New Oo, MBBS (1995), MRCP(UK) (2004), FRCPath (2009), Consultant Haematologist for the Trust.
7. I note that Mr Dorricott received on occasions Cryoprecipitate which contains Factor VIII. Whilst it is now known that Cryoprecipitate would present a lower infection risk than Factor VIII, nevertheless Cryoprecipitate would still be a potential source of infection.
8. Dr Oo has confirmed that in 1982 Factor VIII would have been appropriate management for a patient with Haemophilia A.
9. I have noted in Ann Dorricott's witness statement, paragraph 6 it states, "*prior to the operation his dentist suggested using Cryoprecipitate*" and refers to exhibit WITN1196002, which suggests this exhibit is a letter from Michael Paul Dorricott's dentist. However, this letter of 11 November 1982 appears to be from Michael Paul Dorricott's Surgeon to his dentist.
10. The last paragraph of this letter confirms that Michael Paul Dorricott's Surgeon would arrange with a consultant haematologist to ensure the appropriate Cryoprecipitate be administered.
11. I would like to extend my apologies on behalf of the Trust to Ann Dorricott and her family and we regret the course of events that followed Michael Paul Dorricott's tooth extraction in 1982.

Section 3: Other Issues

12. The Trust has no further evidence in relation to this matter, but I wish to confirm that we will continue to assist and co-operate with the inquiry.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

GRO-C

Dated

12th June 2019