

Witness Name: Professor Gordon Lowe

Statement No.: WITN3496017

Exhibits: WITN3496018 - 022

Dated: 05/10/2022

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF PROFESSOR GORDON LOWE

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 25 July 2019.

I, Professor Gordon Lowe, will say as follows: -

Section 1: Introduction

1. Please set out your name, address, date of birth and professional qualifications.

My name is Professor Gordon Douglas Ogilvie Lowe.

My address is c/o Central Legal Office, Edinburgh.

My date of birth is GRO-C 1949.

I hold the following professional qualifications: -

MB,ChB (with Honours and gold medal) 1972, University of Saint Andrews

MRCP UK 1974

JCHMT Completion of Training in General (Internal) Medicine 1980

MD by Thesis (with Commendation) 1984, University of Dundee

FRCP (Edinburgh) 1986

FRCP (Glasgow) 1986

FRCP (London) 1989

FFPHM (Honorary) 2001

DSc by Thesis (Medicine) 2006, University of Glasgow

2. Please set out the positions you have held at the Glasgow Royal Infirmary and your responsibilities in these positions.

1 November 1974 – 31 December 1977. Registrar in General Medicine, University Department of Medicine, Royal Infirmary, Glasgow (Professor Edward McGirr). Clinical general medicine (50%), including haemophilia (1% of clinical practice) and thrombosis, endocrinology and coronary care. Teaching and research (50%).

1 January 1978 – 30 September 1985. Lecturer in Medicine, University of Glasgow Department of Medicine, Royal Infirmary, Glasgow (Professor Arthur Kennedy); and Honorary Senior Registrar in Medicine. Teaching and research (50%). Clinical general medicine (50%), with interests in thrombosis and haemostasis (haemophilia 1%) and vascular medicine.

1 October 1985 – 30 September 2009. Senior Lecturer in Medicine, University of Glasgow, Department of Medicine, Royal Infirmary, Glasgow (Professors Arthur Kennedy, then from 1990 James McKillop). Promoted Reader in Medicine (1992-1993), then Personal Professor of Vascular Medicine (1993- September 2009).

Honorary Consultant Physician, Glasgow Royal Infirmary (December 1985-September 2009). Teaching and research (50%). Clinical general medicine, thrombosis and haemostasis (including haemophilia, 10%), and vascular medicine (including stroke and peripheral vascular diseases).

1983-2009. Honorary Lecturer, then Honorary Professor from 1995, Bioengineering Unit, Faculty of Engineering, University of Strathclyde.

October 2009 – present. Emeritus Professor and Honorary Senior Research Fellow, Institute of Cardiovascular and Medical Sciences, University of Glasgow.

West of Scotland Haemophilia and Thrombosis Centre, Glasgow Royal Infirmary (GRI)

Assisting (as Senior Lecturer and Honorary Consultant Physician), Dr Charles Forbes, Reader and Honorary Consultant Physician, who was Co-Director with Dr George McDonald, Consultant Haematologist (December 1985-1987).

Co-Director with Dr McDonald (1988-1990), liaising with Dr John Davidson, Consultant Haematologist with interest in haemostasis and thrombosis and who was in charge of Blood Bank, including ordering of blood products; and with Dr Isobel Walker, Consultant Haematologist with interest in haemostasis and thrombosis (including women and children at Glasgow Royal Maternity Hospital).

Co-Director with Dr Walker (1991-September 2009); and also with Dr Campbell Tait, Consultant Haematologist with an interest in haemostasis and thrombosis (2000-September 2009). After Dr Davidson retired in 1996, Drs Walker and Tait were in charge of Blood Bank, including ordering of blood products and recombinant clotting factor concentrates.

3. Please set out your membership, past or present, of any committees or groups relevant to the Inquiry's Terms of Reference, which can be found on the Inquiry's website at www.infectedbloodinquiry.org.uk

I have been a member of the following committees, associations, societies or groups:

Scottish Society of Physicians, member 1979-.

Scottish Society of Experimental Medicine, member 1979-2009.

Association of Physicians, member 1979-.

Medical Research Society, member 1979-2000.

Royal Society of Medicine. Member and committee member of Forum on Clinical Haemorrhage 1982-1987, chair 1985-1987. Member and committee member of Forum on Angiology 1986-1995, chair 1991-1995.

British Society for Haematology, member 1980-; Scientific Advisor 1994-97; member, Working Party on Fibrinogen 1995-2001.

British Society for Haemostasis and Thrombosis, member 1982-; committee member 1988-92; President 1990-1991.

International Society for Thrombosis and Haemostasis, member 1982-; Co-Chair, Subcommittee on Haemostatic Variables in Prediction of Thrombosis 1990-93 and 2004-07; Vice-President 2001-2003; Senior Advisory Member (2003-); Investigator Recognition Award 2009.

Scientific Services Advisory Group, Scottish Home and Health Department, member 1987-88.

UK Haemophilia Centre Directors (then Doctors) Organisation (UKHCDO), member of Steering Group/Executive committee 1988-2009; organiser of Comprehensive Care Centre national audit 1992-2000.

Scotland and Northern Ireland Haemophilia Centre Directors (SNIHCD) Group, member then co-chair 1988-2009. Including attending annual meetings with Scottish Home and Health Department (SHHD) and Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service (SNBTS); and meetings of their Factor VIII Working Party (renamed Coagulation Factor Working Party) 1988-2009.

Member, Scottish National Blood Transfusion Association (mid-1990s, dates uncertain).

Glasgow Royal Infirmary Stroke Service Development Group, chair 1993-97.

RCPE – Deputy Assessor 1993-99, organising UK Consensus Conferences including: fibrinogen and cardiovascular disease, platelet transfusion, rhesus haemolytic disease, autologous bone marrow transplantation, stroke, atrial fibrillation, misconduct in medical research, and lipids and cardiovascular disease. Assessor and member of Council 1999-2003, chairing Audit and Research Committee (for clinical audit,

research, and development of clinical standards). Co-Chair, RCPE/RCPSG Bicollegiate Committee on Clinical Standards, 2000-2003.

Health Sciences and Public Health Research Committee, Chief Scientist Office, Scottish Home and Health Department, member 1995-99.

British Heart Foundation, Research Committee, member 1995-99.

Clinical Audit and Resources Group (CRAG), Scottish Office Home and Health Department, member (and member of its Clinical Outcomes Subcommittee) 1996-2002.

NHS Scotland Recombinant Factor VIII / Coagulation Factor Consortium, member, 1997-2009.

Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN). Chair of first clinical guideline on prophylaxis of venous thromboembolism 1993-1995; Chair of clinical guideline on antithrombotic therapy 1996-1999; RCPE member of Council 1998-2003; Chair of Council 2002-2007.

Clinical Outcomes Group, NHS Quality Improvement Scotland, member 2003-2008.

Chest Heart and Stroke Scotland (Charity), member of Board and member of Research Committee, 2010-2019.

Scottish Society for the History of Medicine, member 2014-, member of committee 2015-, Vice-president 2020-.

Section 2: Response to criticism of Mr **GRO-B**

4. At page 103 to 104 of the transcript, **GRO-B** recounts receiving a number of letters regarding the risk of being infected with variant Creutzfeld-Jakob disease (vCJD). At an appointment with you to discuss this risk, **GRO-B** claims that you informed him that he had not been infected with vCJD. Despite this **GRO-B** states that he continued to receive letters relating to his potential infection with the disease. As a result, **GRO-B** states that he does not believe what you told him at the appointment and in fact lied to him. Please comment.

I have perused the case records copied to me, and identified what I think are the relevant letters sent by the Centre Co-Directors in 2004 (WITN3496018) and 2009 (WITN3496022) to all patients with haemophilia registered at the Centre, as requested by all the UK Departments of Health, including **GRO-B** reply sheet(WITN3496019); **GRO-B** vCJD exposure assessment form (WITN3496020); and **GRO-B** vCJD pending procedure notification(WITN3496021).

On 20 September 2004, **GRO-B** was sent a letter (WITN3496018) stating that according to Centre records Co-Directors believed that he received clotting factor

concentrates (factor VIII) from UK blood donors between 1980 and 2001. Therefore, he was being asked -

- Not to donate blood, organs, semen/eggs
- To inform all healthcare professionals who treat him (doctors, nurses, dentists) about the possible need to use disposable instruments. We had already copied this information to his GP

He was also told in the letter that the Centre Co-Directors were aware of only one blood donor who contributed to SNBTS batches of clotting factor (used between 1987 and 1989) who had since developed vCJD; that two years previously the Centre had written to all its patients who, according to its records, received any SNBTS clotting factor concentrates at that time, asking whether or not they wished to know they had received such batches. The letter also stated that the Centre was offering to see any of its patients (or their parents) who wished to discuss their own situation, including whether or not they received such batches and a reply form and envelope were enclosed.

GRO-B replied on 22 September 2004 (WITN3496019), stating that he would like to have a specific consultation to further discuss these issues, and would like to know if he had received an implicated batch).

Haemophilia Centre staff completed a Patient vCJD Exposure Assessment Form for **GRO-B** (WITN3496020), stating that –

- He received UK sourced pooled factor concentrates between 1980 and 2001, therefore he [was] ““AT-RISK” OF vCJD FOR PUBLIC HEALTH PURPOSES.”
- He did not receive any of the factor VIII batches listed

I discussed vCJD with **GRO-B** on 9 November 2004, and informed him that he was at risk of vCJD for public health purposes; and also that he did not receive any of the implicated batches listed. (WITN3496019). I and my Co-Directors (Professor Walker, Dr Tait) each had this conversation with many of our patients at this time. I cannot remember all of the conversations I had, but I am quite certain that this is what I told **GRO-B** based upon the documentation I have seen and to which I have made reference.

Because he was identified as at risk for onward transmission of vCJD in his case records, all surgery thereafter used disposable instruments, including dentistry, and his right ankle fusion for haemophilic arthropathy in September 2008 (WITN3496021)

In February 2009, the Centre sent to all its patients (including **GRO-B**) a letter about a person with haemophilia who had been found to have evidence of the infection that causes vCJD in their spleen at post mortem; and that all Haemophilia Centres were contacting their patients throughout the UK to give them this information. The letter reinforced advice on reduction of risk of spreading vCJD to other people (WITN3496022).

In reply to **GRO-B** criticism –

- I did not inform him that he had not been infected with vCJD.
- I informed him that he was at risk of vCJD for public health purposes; and therefore should follow the advice sent him.
- I did not lie to him.

Section 3: Other Issues

5. If there are any other issues in relation to which you consider that you have evidence which will be relevant to the Inquiry's investigation of the matters set out in its Terms of Reference, please set them out here

None

Statement of Truth

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

Signed: GRO-C

Dated 05/10/2022

Table of exhibits:

Date	Notes/ Description	Exhibit number
20/09/2004	Letter of 20 September 2004	WITN3496018
22/09/2004	Patient Reply sheet of 22 September 2004	WITN3496019
09/11/2004	Patient vCJD exposure assessment from 9 November 2004	WITN3496020
06/03/2008	vCJD pending procedure notification 6 March 2008	WITN3496021
February 2009	Letter of February 2009	WITN3496022