

Witness Name: Dr Bernard Anthony
McVerry
Statement No: WITN3502005
Exhibits: N/A
Dated: 24 December 2020

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF DR BERNARD MCVERRY

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 27 May 2020

I, Dr Bernard Anthony McVerry, will say as follows: -

Section 1: Introduction

1. My name is Bernard Anthony McVerry and I live at an address known to the Inquiry. D.O.B. [GRO-C]1943 and my professional qualifications are MB Bch BAO.
2. I held positions as Senior Lecturer and Honorary Consultant. Haematologist to the Royal Liverpool Hospital. Mid 1980 to mid 1985. General Haematology care, Haemophilia care. Primarily responsible for establishing a bone marrow transplant centre for Merseyside. From mid August 1985 until retirement (in 2012/13) Consultant Haematologist at St James' University Hospital, Leeds – General Haematology care and Haemophilia care. Leeds member of UKHCDO in 1986.

Section 2: Responses to criticism of witness W1562

1. Criticism has been made by witness W1562 in relation to his treatment while under the care of the Haemophilia Centre in Leeds between 1981 and 1990. The witness

was infected with HCV as a result of infected blood products. Although there are some documents provided for this case none are from 1990 which is the year that the criticisms relate to.

1.1. *At paragraphs 13 and 14 of his statement, witness W1562 describes an appointment in 1990 during which you told him that he had contracted HCV but that it would 'probably never affect' the witness except that 'at times he may feel like he had the flu'. Witness W1562 states that you then said, 'let me put this into perspective. I have had to tell people today that they have HIV, so this is nowhere near as severe'. Please comment on this.*

2. I do not remember the conversation that is suggested to have taken place in 1990. However, I do not believe that I would have tried to compare HCV and HIV. W1562 states that I had to "tell people today" in 1990 that they had HIV. However, in 1990 I would have expected all patients to have already been informed that they had HIV. Therefore, I cannot agree with his recollection of a conversation we may have had in 1990. Also, I am not sure we had started routinely testing for HCV in 1990.

2.1. *At paragraph 15 of his statement, witness W1562 explained that you did not give him any further information regarding the infection or how to manage it, including sexual transmission. Please comment on this.*

3. I do not recall the suggested conversation. I do not know when he had a liver biopsy and who undertook the procedure. I seem to recollect from previous correspondence that I did refer patient W1562 to hepatology for long term hepatic management something he was not specifically impressed with. We would have continued to manage his haemophilia. This was a common arrangement with hepatology.

Section 3: Other Issues

I have no further comment.

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2. I do not remember the conversation that is suggested to have taken place in 1990. However, I do not believe that I would have tried to compare HCV and HIV. W1562 states that I had to "tell people today" in 1990 that they had HIV. However, in 1990 I would have expected all patients to have already been informed that they had HIV. Therefore, I cannot agree with his recollection of a conversation we may have had in 1990. Also, I am not sure we had started routinely testing for HCV in 1990.
- 2.1. *At paragraph 15 of his statement, witness W1562 explained that you did not give him any further information regarding the infection or how to manage it, including sexual transmission. Please comment on this.*
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I have no further comment.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed _____

GRO-C

Dated _____

29/12/20