

Witness Name: Saad Al-Ismail

Statement No.: WITN3761001

Exhibits: WITN3761002;

WITN3761003; WITN3761004

Dated: 24 September 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF SAAD AL-ISMAIL

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 9 August 2019 addressed to Tracy Myhill, Chief Executive of Swansea Bay University Health Board.

I, Dr Saad Al-Ismail, will say as follows: -

Section 1: Introduction

1. I am Dr Saad Al-Ismail of GRO-C My date of birth is the GRO-C 1947. My professional qualifications are MB, Ch.; FRCP(Lond) and FRCPath.
2. I was a Consultant Haematologist working in Swansea from June 1982 until February 2018 when I retired.
3. I was appointed in September 2018 as a locum consultant haematologist to help Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board ("ABMU Health Board"), currently Swansea Bay Health Board, in addressing matters relating to The Infected Blood Inquiry.
4. From 1985 until my retirement, I was the Senior Consultant Haematologist at Swansea (initially West Glamorgan Health Authority, later Swansea NHS Trust and then Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board). I was the lead consultant for the Haematology Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) in ABMU Health Board. I was also the lead consultant in thrombosis and haemostasis and the director of

Haemophilia Centre in Singleton Hospital for most of the time I was a consultant haematologist. I was the lead consultant in Stem Cell and Bone Marrow Transplantation from the time I started the service in Swansea in May 1997 until my retirement.

5. I was the Medical Director and the lead Cancer Clinician in, South West Wales Cancer Network from the time it was first created in 2000 until 2011.
6. I was a Senior Clinical Tutor in Swansea University Medical School from the time the Medical School was created 2004 until my retirement in 2018. .
7. I chaired the New Medicine Group of the All Wales Medicine Strategy Group that makes recommendation on the entry of new drugs in Wales including cancer Drugs between 2014 and 2018.
8. I was the co-chair of the Cancer Commissioning Board for ABM University Health Board from the time the Cancer Commissioning Board was created in January 2015 until the Commissioning Boards, including the Cancer Commissioning Board, were stood down in 2017.
9. I was the chair of SIFT appointment Committee in Swansea School of Medicine from 2014 until my retirement from the NHS.

Section 2: Response to request for clarification

10. The first request for tests for HCV in respect of Mr Huw Thomas referred to in the hospital notes was on 4th May 1994 (**Exhibit WITN3761002**).
11. I could not find any record of a HCV test in 1988 or 1989 in Mr Thomas' hospital notes or the laboratory records available to me. I discussed the position with Dr Jerry Kingham who was Mr Thomas' treating clinician following his referral to Dr Kingham by Mr Thomas' GP on 25th July 1988. Mr Thomas attended the outpatient clinic of Dr Kingham on the 15th August 1988 (**Exhibit WITN3761003**). In my discussion with Dr Kingham, he remembered Mr Thomas but has no recollection of a test for hepatitis C or non-A, non-B Hepatitis being requested prior to the one he requested in 1994 for hepatitis C.

12. Mr Thomas was tested for HCV in 1994. The hospital records show that he attended the outpatient clinic on 4th May 1994 and a request for a laboratory test for hepatitis C Antibody was made on 4th May 1994 (**Exhibit WITN3761004**).
13. The test was requested by Dr Kingham as set out above. It was carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service ("PHLS") at Singleton Hospital and was reported on 26th May 1994 (**Exhibit WITN3761004**).

Section 3: Other Issues

14. This witness statement is based on my discussion with Dr Kingham and my review of the records listed below:
- i. Mr Thomas' hospital notes (Four Volumes).
 - ii. Laboratory records held on available laboratory information systems:
 - a. MASTER Lab – Earliest entry found dated 16 January 1998
 - b. ABMU Clinical Portal – Earliest entry found 07/03/2003
 - c. Indigo- Earliest entry found 10/11/2008
 - d. All Wales LIMS (TrackCare Lab) - Earliest entry found 07/04/2015.
15. I note from the transcript of the oral evidence given to the Inquiry by Mr Thomas on 26 July 2019, that his recollection is as follow: "There was a doctor in Belgium had devised some sort of test because before that I was told I had -- it was possibly hepatitis non-A and B but they didn't know what it was, and then in '88 I believe it was, '89, a Belgian doctor had devised a test and it was, to my recollection, that's when I was told after the test that I had hepatitis C."
16. I personally do not have any recollection of such a doctor. Dr Kingham is not aware of a Belgian doctor who was carrying out tests for non-A, non-B hepatitis or hepatitis C in 1988/1989.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed 

Dated 24 September 2019

Table of exhibits:

Date	Notes/ Description	Exhibit number
1994-1995	Clinical notes (Singleton Hospital) – Mr Huw Thomas	WITN3761002
15 August 1988	Letter from Dr Kingham to Mr Thomas' GP	WITN3761003
26 May 1994	Provisional results of HCV antibody test for Mr Huw Thomas	WITN3761004