

Witness Name: Dr Ray Webb

Statement No.: WITN3780001

Exhibits: N/A

Dated: 16th October 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF RAY WEBB

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

I, Dr Ray Webb, will say as follows: -

Section 1: Introduction

1. My name is Dr Ray Webb. I live at GRO-C Wiltshire, GRO-C I was born on the GRO-C 1954. My professional qualifications are BM, MRCP, DRCOG, DAvMed.
2. From 1979 to 1995 I was a Medical Officer in the RAF. From 1995 to 2014 I was a partner at GRO-B In 2014 I retired from medical practice.
3. I hold no relevant membership, past or present, of any committees or groups relevant to the Inquiry's Terms of Reference.

Section 2: Responses to criticism of GRO-B

4. I must first clarify that GRO-B: H consulted me in 1998 as his NHS GP, not privately as stated. He presented, not because he was unwell in any way, but because he had lost his driving licence, as described, as the result of his alcohol level

whilst driving. DVLA required blood tests to confirm that he was not showing signs of ongoing alcohol misuse, prior to reissuing his licence. I therefore arranged for his haematology, biochemistry and liver function to be tested. Unfortunately, his initial tests were not all within the normal range. Contrary to Mrs GRO-B's assertion, I did not assume that he was an alcoholic and never diagnosed or accused him of such. Moreover, I did arrange to repeat the tests and requested hepatic virus serology.

5. At that time, our local laboratory, at GRO-B Hospital, did not test for Hepatitis C and indeed it was unable to do so, therefore it did not include it in its hepatic serology. They reported the negative results for Hepatitis A and B, as stated. Confirmation of their testing capability by the laboratory in a letter and recognition of it was the last evidence that lead Mrs GRO-B's solicitor to cease action against me in 2007. Whilst Mrs GRO-B is correct in stating that Hepatitis C was recognised in 1998, I do not believe the prevalence of it and its routes of infection were widely appreciated at that time.
6. Coincidental to the virology results, his other blood tests, when repeated, showed some improvement. I do not know if those results enabled him to regain his driving licence, however he did not consult me again until his later illness as described by Mrs GRO-
7. I have no recollection or record of the telephone conversation that Mrs GRO-B describes at the end of paragraph 16 and wonder if it was a misunderstanding or misremembering of a conversation while I was involved in H care during his final illness. Nonetheless, as I have stated above, I did request hepatic virus investigations and received the results that our local laboratory provided at the time. Likewise, I have no recollection of having Mrs GRO-B removed from my list, although clearly it would have been difficult for her to consult me whilst her solicitor was pursuing her accusation against me, when there were satisfactory alternative GPs and practices available.
8. This report has been drafted from my recollection of events which occurred over 20 years ago. I did not have access to the medical records when drafting the report and therefore reserve the right to amend my report if the records become available.

Section 3: Other Issues

9. None relevant.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed _____

GRO-C

Dated _____

16th October 2019