

Witness Name: Dr Yvonne Veitch

Statement No: WITN3806001

Exhibits: Nil

Dated: X 1st January 2020

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF Dr Yvonne VEITCH

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 17th December 2019.

I, Dr Yvonne Veitch, will say as follows: -

Section 1. Professional History

1. Yvonne Veitch, Advisory MDU, One Canada Square, London E14 5GS. Date of Birth: GRO-C 1948. MBBS, BSc, Retired General Practitioner since 2013.
2. Positions held:

September 1972 to January 1973 House Officer to Professor Reginald Hall at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle on Tyne. Junior pre-registration post looking after general medical patients on the ward under the guidance of Senior Physicians

February 1973 to July 1973 House Officer to Mr A. Loughran, West Cumberland Hospital. Junior pre-registration post looking after surgical patients.

1980 to 1981 Principal in General Practice in Heaton, Newcastle on Tyne and Newcastle University Health Service. Post-registration medical care of General Practice patients.

1986 to 1987 GP Principal in Rushall, West Midlands. General Practitioner responsibilities for patients in the community.

1987 to 2003 GP Principal in Loughborough, Leicestershire.

2003 to 2013 GP Principal at Bromley-by-Bow Health Centre, London with Dr Sam Everington.

Section 2. Experience – Related evidence

3. As a Junior Doctor, my post as a pre-registration House Officer to Professor Reginald Hall at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle on Tyne in 1972 included treating patients with haemophilia. This is from my memory alone.
4. These people with haemophilia would attend the ward directly, typically with haemarthroses and severe pain. The treatments involved bedrest, pain relief and injected or infused blood clotting medication. The latter would be either Fresh Frozen Plasma, Cryoprecipitate, or Factor 8.
5. At that time, in 1972, I had no knowledge of the risks of infection to patients associated with blood or blood products.
6. As I had no knowledge of risks of infection of treatment with blood or blood products I do not recall these risks being communicated to patients by me or anyone else.
7. There were no particular safety precautions taken to protect patients, doctors and/or other staff from any risk of infection as far as I can recall. The routine skin cleansing prior to injection at that time consisted of antiseptic skin swabbing at the site of injecting the patient.
8. I do not recall any steps taken to test or monitor patients treated with blood and/or blood products to assess whether they had been infected with anything.
9. I do not recall raising any concerns about safety precautions or the risks of infection to patients, clinicians or staff.
10. I have no other experience of treating people with haemophilia than the 6 months in 1972.

Section 3. Further Information

11. I have no other matter to detail that is relevant to the Inquiry's Terms of Reference.
12. I have no past or present membership of any committees or groups relevant to the Inquiry's Terms of Reference.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

GRO-C

Dated X 1st January 2020.