Witness Name: Dr David Patch

Statement No.: W3860002

Exhibits: N/A

Dated: 31 October 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF DR DAVID PATCH

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 22 October 2019.

I, Dr David Patch (date of birth: GRO-C 1964), of The Royal Free Hospital, Pond Street, London, NW3 2QG, will say as follows: -

Section 1: Introduction

- I obtained a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery in 1987 and membership of the Royal College of Physicians (UK) in 1990.
- 2. I am an Appointed Consultant Hepatologist at The Royal Free Hospital, a position which I have held since 1988.
- 3. I was the Secretary of the British Association of the Study of Liver Disease between 2015 and 2019.
- 4. The information provided within this witness statement is based upon facts within my knowledge, save for where I have indicated the source of my information or belief. Where matters are not directly within my knowledge, I believe them to be true. I have not had cause to consult any medical records in drafting this statement.

Section 2: Responses to criticism of Mark Ward

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to respond to Mr Ward's statement. I would like to begin by noting that, whilst my recollection of the precise words I used when I

- saw a patient over 10 years ago may not be word perfect, I deny that I would have used a rude or dismissive phrase such as that alleged.
- 6. We clinicians would spend a lot of time discussing with patients the timing of antiviral therapy, as we well recognised the impact that Interferon therapy would have on patients' psychological state, and also on their economic state as often they would require time off work.
- 7. A lot of patients were fearful of starting this medication, but at that time it was the only therapy that was available that could potentially clear Hepatitis C. As we were beginning to start to see the impact of Hepatitis C on these patients, in particular the development of cirrhosis and its complications, we were keen to treat patients if they felt able to consent to treatment.
- 8. I can confirm that at no point would I have ever said that if the patient did not want my help that they should leave the clinic room, and I am afraid I do not recognise the statement of Mr Ward as being factual.

Section 3: Other Issues

9. Mr Ward's case is unusual in that, having been Hepatitis PCR positive, he cleared HCV spontaneously. I can understand that this would have been very unsettling for a patient; especially as the impact of Hepatitis C was becoming more evident.

Statement of Truth

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

