

Witness Name: Professor John Dillon

Statement No.: WITN4062005

Exhibits: WITN4062006-007

Dated: 19/01/2023

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN STATEMENT OF PROFESSOR JOHN DILLON

I provide this statement in response to the supplementary request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 28 November 2022.

I, John Dillon, will say as follows: -

- 1. Please provide the years covered by the Scottish database for people treated for hepatitis C:**

This database was set up in 2001 as a national research tool having previously been in use with NHS Lothian. Although the database was set up at this stage, it became a national government tool in 2006. However retrospective data was entered into this database and so it covers all of the known treatments in the treatment centres across Scotland, the only exception to this is the Western General Hospital in Edinburgh that has its own database.

- 2. Please explain the process by which risk factors for infection are recorded:**

Entry into the database is performed by clerical staff trained with some understanding of hepatitis C. The entry into the database is extracted from the clinical notes and so the risk factors for infection are extracted from letters or hand written clinical notes to be then entered and coded into the drop down menus within

the database. Therefore the process of entry is dependent on the quality of the recording of the risk factors in the initial history taken by the clinicians involved, how this has been recorded in the notes and the ability of the clerical staff to find this information and to fit it into one of the categories within the database.

3. Please explain whether NHS blood transfusions are recorded as a single risk factor and if not whether any other data recorded would help disaggregate NHS blood transfusions from blood products and treatment abroad:

As described above, the data available is dependent on what is recorded in the clinical notes which is variable and so there would be a grouping together of NHS treatment, be that blood transfusion or blood products as a single risk factor. Treatment abroad would have been recorded separately but this data comes later in the history of the database so earlier cases this risk factor would be recorded in a more limited way. In treatment abroad this is a broader category than simply blood or blood or blood products and acknowledges the possibility of incomplete sterilisation of equipment and reuse of hollow needles and other such risk factors and therefore is a different risk factor group compared to NHS blood and blood products.

4. Please provide the number of people by year whose infection has been attributed to NHS blood transfusions and separately to blood products:

I contacted Public Health Scotland (PHS) for this data and exhibit a spreadsheet containing figures (WITN4062006) and a response prepared by PHS (WITN4062007).

These figures are for patients ever diagnosed in Scotland with either a blood transfusion or blood product risk factor listed on their testing request form. This data is from the Diagnostic database as opposed to the clinical database that I have referred to previously. So, the data comes directly from the testing labs to PHS, as opposed to the clinical database which is populated from people who have interaction with treatment services. The numbers I have given previously are those who are alive, living in Scotland and have/had active infection (ie were PCR positive and had chronic infection) drawn from the clinical database, which match to the summary estimated number of cases generated from the expert statistical

group. These new numbers are for those who claimed to have had blood or blood products (ie not verified) NHS or abroad, were ever infected chronic or non-chronic, alive or dead, in or out of Scotland, so are much larger. The data does however show the time trend of new diagnoses, which I believe was what the Inquiry wanted to see and shows the tiny number of cases being found despite massive numbers of tests.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

GRO-C

Dated

19/01/2023

Date	Description	Exhibit number
	Spreadsheet – Figures	WITN4062006
	Response by PHS to question 4	WITN4062007