

**Witness Name:** Elizabeth Redmond

**Statement No.:** WITN4066025

**Dated:** 06 October 2022

## **INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY**

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### **FOURTH WRITTEN STATEMENT OF ELIZABETH REDMOND**

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I, Elizabeth Redmond, in response to the Rule 9 request from Matthew Hosking, Deputy Solicitor to the Infected Blood Inquiry dated 8 September 2022, addressed to the Department of Health, will say as follows:

- 1. The Inquiry understands from your statement WITN4066001 that there is a dedicated clinical psychology service available to all those affected directly or indirectly by infected blood, provided by the Belfast HSC Trust. Please provide an update as to (i) whether this service continues to be funded and the extent to which future funding is guaranteed; (ii) any information you have on the uptake of this service; and (iii) the services offered to those who apply.**

- 1.1.** As set out in my first written statement (**WITN4066001**) the Department committed to funding the psychological service for three days per week for the duration of the Inquiry and the service has continued to be delivered. As set out in Minister Swann's first written statement (**WITN5570001**) the ring-fenced funding provided to the Trust to deliver the psychological service was £18,375 in 2018/19, £73,500 in 2019/20 and £55,125 in 2020/21. The funding was £80,376

for 2022/23 and funding will continue for the lifetime of the Inquiry. As set out in Minister Swann's first written statement (**WITN5570001**) the Department will work with the Belfast HSC Trust to consider options for provision of continued psychological support to patients and their families beyond the lifetime of the Inquiry.

1.2. As set out in Minister Swann's second written statement (**WITN5570019**) questions regarding service uptake should be addressed to Belfast Health and Social Care Trust as the service provider. The Department does not record statistics on uptake of the service.

1.3. Likewise questions regarding the nature of services offered should also be addressed to Belfast Health and Social Care Trust as the service provider.

**2. Under what circumstances are patient advocates available for people with complex health conditions, such as advanced liver disease consequent to the use of infected blood and blood products?**

Patients in Northern Ireland can avail of services provided by, amongst others, the Patient Client Council (PCC) whose remit is to support individuals and families if there is a concern about any part of Health and Social Care (HSC). Whilst I do not have responsibility for the PCC within my policy remit, it is my understanding that their Advocacy Service provides support to people through formal and informal processes in relation to issues with HSC. I am unable to comment as to the circumstances in which patients can access this service or how and when it would be signposted to patients.

**Statement of Truth**

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

GRO-C

Signed

Dated 06 October 2022