

Witness Name: David Strang

Statement No: WITN4190001

Exhibits: 0

Dated: 14 January 2022

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF DAVID JAMES REID STRANG

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 19 November 2021.

I, David Strang will say as follows: -

Section 1. Introduction & Professional History

1. My name is Dr David James Reid Strang CBE QPM BSc MSc. My date of birth is GRO-C 1958 and my address is GRO-C,
Edinburgh GRO-C
2. I served as a police officer between 1980 and 2013 in the following police forces. Metropolitan Police 1980 – 1998; Assistant Chief Constable, Lothian and Borders Police 1998-2001; Chief Constable, Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary 2001-2007; Chief Constable, Lothian and Borders Police 2007-2013.

3. I have not previously provided evidence nor been involved in any other related inquiries.

Section 2: Background – Allegations against Professor Ludlam

4. I have been shown a copy of a letter (POSC0000046) dated 6 December 2007 from Mike Pringle MSP to me, as Chief Constable of Lothian and Borders Police, in relation to [GRO-A] and [GRO-A]. I see from my note on the letter that I received it on 10 December 2007 and on the same date requested that the letter be acknowledged and forwarded to the "Detective Chief Superintendent for consideration and report please".
 - a. I had no involvement in my capacity as Chief Constable of Lothian and Borders Police into any background work in relation to the allegations made by [GRO-A] and [GRO-A]
 - b. I have no recollection of a telephone conversation with Mike Pringle MSP on 6 December 2007. I was not aware of these allegations before 6 December 2007.
 - c. I have no recollection of a telephone conversation with Mike Pringle MSP on 6 December 2007, nor any other phone calls regarding the allegations.
 - d. I was not aware of an earlier complaint made by [GRO-A]
 - e. I had no knowledge of the 2003 complaint, nor the subsequent investigation.
 - f. From my written note I see on Mike Pringle's letter of 6 December 2007, I requested that the letter be acknowledged and forwarded to the "Detective Chief Superintendent for consideration and report please".

- g. I had no further direct contact with Mike Pringle MSP in connection with this allegation.
- h. The Detective Chief Superintendent was responsible for providing a response to Mr Pringle.

Section 3: 2007-2008 Investigation into allegations made against Professor Ludlam

5. I had no further involvement in the case following my seeing Mike Pringle's letter on 10 December 2007.

- a. I had no involvement in the decision as to whether and to what extent an investigation should be pursued.
- b. On 10 December 2007, I decided that the letter should be forwarded to the Detective Chief Superintendent for consideration.
- c. I had no personal involvement in the oversight of any subsequent enquiry.
- d. I have no recollection of the 2008 investigation.

6. I did not attend any meetings with COPFS representatives in relation to allegations against Professor Ludlam.

- a. I had no subsequent communication with Mike Pringle or the Crown Office in relation to this investigation.
- b. I did not attend any related meetings.

7.

a. and b. In Scotland, the Lord Advocate is responsible for the investigation of all crimes, which she exercises through the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service. It is normal practice for the police to report a case to the Crown Office for advice and for the Crown Office to advise the police on the investigation.

8.

a. I had no personal involvement in decisions about the investigation.

9.

a. I have no personal knowledge of the decision making processes in relation to this case.

b. I had no involvement in any clearance procedures.

c. I had no involvement in this case after 10 December 2007.

Section 4: Request for documents

10. I retired from Lothian and Borders Police in 2013 and hold no relevant documents.

11.

a. I have not personally retained any notes relating to 2007-2009.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed GRO-C

Dated 14 June 2022

