

Witness Name: Andrew Hines
Statement No.: WITN4195013
Exhibits: None
Dated: 23 October 2023

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF MR ANDREW HINES ON BEHALF OF BARTS HEALTH NHS TRUST

I provide this statement on behalf of Barts Health NHS Trust ("the Trust") in response to the request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 in relation to the criticisms made by Witness 5873.

I, Andrew Hines, will say as follows: -

Section 1: Introduction

I, Andrew Hines, Director of Group Development have executive responsibility for the Legal Team and make this statement based on information provided to me by the Head of Legal following investigation with clinical teams and the Health Records Team.

Section 2: Response to Criticisms by W5873

1. In response to the criticisms contained in paragraph 20-22 that she was not correctly advised of the risks of contaminated blood from a transfusion before either a:
 - a. GRO-B 1980 transfusion following a post partum haemorrhage; or the
 - b. December 1980 transfusion following a termination of pregnancy.
2. I am very sorry for the experience that Witness 5873 has been through which she sets out in her statement. I understand that she did not feel fully informed about the transfusion process and the risk of blood being contaminated with Hepatitis C. The Trust has always aimed for people to be fully informed about the procedures they are undergoing.
3. Unfortunately at the time of the transfusion in 1980, Hepatitis C was not a known disease and there was no available test for it. A post-partum haemorrhage is often an

emergency situation with significant blood loss and a blood transfusion is often life-saving in these circumstances. Practice relating to transfusions has changed significantly since the 1980s. Patients are fully counselled regarding the risks and benefits of transfusions. However, in emergency situations it is still sometimes necessary to give blood in a patient's best interest to save their life.

4. At paragraph 79-81 Witness 5873 mentions the difficulty that she encountered in obtaining her medical records from 1980 and that they could not be located when she requested them. On receipt of her Witness Statement the legal team requested further checks by the Health Records team, however it was not possible to locate any records.
5. At paragraph 82 Witness 5873 mentions that she believes that she should have been notified that she may have received contaminated blood products sooner than when she was diagnosed with Hepatitis C in 2002. Unfortunately at the time of her transfusions in 1980 Hepatitis C was not a known disease. A test did not become available for Hepatitis C until 1991. Once testing was available, I understand that policy from Public Health England identified which patients were to be recalled. I have been advised that if a blood donor tested positive for Hepatitis C once testing was available, then anyone who they had donated blood to prior to 1991 was traced. The Trust is not aware of any national policy to look back at all patients who had been transfused before 1991.

Section 3: Other Issues

6. I do not believe I hold any further evidence that is relevant.

Statement of Truth

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

GRO-C

Signed _____

Dated _____ 23 October 2023 _____