

Witness Name: Stephen Murray

Statement No.: WITN4409001

Exhibits: WITN4409002 - WITN4409005

Dated: 21/12/2020

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF STEPHEN MURRAY

I, Stephen Murray, will say as follows: -

1. I am the Assistant Director of Corporate and Legal Affairs for the University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Foundation Trust.
2. This statement is in response to the Rule 9 received by the Inquiry dated 17 February 2020.

Background

1. Annexed to my statement is the correspondence of Professor Ann Hunter dated 20 September 2018 ("Professor Hunter's correspondence") (WITN4409002) which details steps taken to ensure preservation of all records within the Haemophilia Centre within UHL and actions taken as a result of the Rule 9 request dated 15 August 2018. I have not annexed the annexures of Professor Ann Hunter's correspondence to my statement.
2. As a result of the Rule 9 request dated 17 February 2020 I have made further enquiries and answered the request to the best of my available knowledge.
3. I can confirm that the Trust has taken steps to ensure that records are preserved. The Head of Operations for our Clinical Support and Imaging CMG who is responsible for managing medical records within the Trust has issued instructions that all patient's medical records wherever held within the Trust are to be retained and that no patient medical records are to be destroyed pending the conclusion of your Inquiry.
4. Additionally I have met with the Head of Service for Infectious Diseases, Hepatology, Haematology and Blood Transfusion who have taken additional steps to ensure that

electronic records as well as paper records are preserved within their services and within the Department of Microbiology.

Section 1. Searches, including search terms used

Physical search

1. Professor Hunter's correspondence details the searches which were carried out as a result of the Rule 9 request dated 15 August 2018. It annexes documentation which was retrieved as a result of the searches. I confirm I agree with the contents of Professor Hunter's correspondence which details the process which was followed to identify and retrieve information as per the Terms of Reference.
2. Professor Hunter made the following comments in her correspondence which I note here for completeness:
 - a. It was acknowledged that prior to the development of the shared hard drive previous individual members of staff may have stored information within their own trust drive. This information is not available to current staff.
 - b. Any documents not referenced in Professor Hunter's correspondence was felt to have contained information which is outside the scope of the Inquiry or contained duplicated information. All relevant documents are annexed to Professor Hunter's correspondence which has been received by the Inquiry.
3. Professor Hunter's correspondence advises that she requested information from our IM&T department as to whether there may be archived material available from computer backups previously made. I have been informed that such material is extremely unlikely to exist.

Online search

1. The correspondence of Professor Ann Hunter details the look back exercise which was conducted through the computer systems. We have not undertaken any electronic searches using particular search criteria but are happy to do so.

Section 2. The Trust's information repositories (from 1950 to present day) such as local authorities, University archives and The National Archives

1. As per Professor Hunter's statement, the Haemophilia Unit moved in 1997 to a new premises within the hospital. No information available suggested data or documents of any relevance were stored elsewhere, either on site or in an off-site facility.
2. As a result of the Rule 9 request dated 17 February 2020, I made enquiries with our Head of Privacy, Saiful Choudhury, who has responsibility for corporate records. I was advised that so far as we were aware we have not placed any of UHL's information in any repositories or external archives from 1950 to present day. We have therefore not made any searches of repositories or external archives.
3. I made enquiries with our Consultant Haematologist, Richard Gooding, who confirmed that he is not aware of the present whereabouts of any records from the Haemophilia Centre created since 1950 outside of his department.
4. As a result of correspondence received from the Inquiry dated 10 August 2020, it was noted that according to The National Archives there are records at the Leicester Record Office. I made contact with the Leicester Record Office who have provided me with two lists of material received which I have annexed to my statement (WITN4409003). On reading these lists I am unable to identify anything that is likely to be of interest to the Inquiry, however not being familiar with the actual documents I cannot be certain.
5. The Trust does not have any further meaningful knowledge of what records are contained that may be of relevance to the Inquiry. Sadly the organisational memory detailing this has been lost. I am happy to conduct further searches to assist the Inquiry if required.

Section 3. Repositories and archives searched

1. The Trust has not conducted any searches of repositories or external archives.

Section 4. Destruction of Records

1. Pages 6-7 of Professor Hunter's correspondence details that an investigation identified that inline with the Trust Medical Records Policy notes of an adult patient are retained for 8 years after the last treatment or death. For children it is until their 25th birthday. The full medical notes of patients who have died or left are therefore not retained. The Centre has a shared computer drive but this is a relatively new acquisition and it is presumed that prior to this senior staff kept information on their own drives within the UHL system. No access to this information was available and so any documentation which might previously have been written is no longer obtainable. The same issue relates to any potential minutes or other documents, protocols, policies etc.

2. As a result of the request dated 17 February 2020 I reviewed the retention and disposal of records. I identified a single incident where a registrar containing records of issuing blood at the Leicester General Hospital for the period 24/03/1985 to 18/09/1986 was destroyed on 20/09/2018, in accordance with the then departmental policy and in compliance with the current legislation (BSQ 2012, SI50). I annex a copy of this policy (WITN4409004). In addition I identified that one set of maternity medical records were destroyed on 26th February 2019 in accordance with Trust policy and before the issuing of an instruction to retain all medical records pending conclusion of your Inquiry. I annex a copy of this policy (WITN4409005). The process for disposing of records older than 30 years has since been suspended and no such records have been disposed of since then.

Statement of Truth

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement and those in Professor Hunter's correspondence are true.

Signed

GRO-C

Dated

21 December 2020