

Witness Name: Melanie Holley
Statement No.: WITN4431001
Exhibits: W4431002; W4431003;
W4431004; W4431005; W4431006
Dated: 29th May 2020

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF MELANIE HOLLEY ON BEHALF OF ROYAL DEVON AND EXETER NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 13 February 2020.

I, Melanie Holley will say as follows: -

Section 1. Of the searches undertaken to comply with our Rule 9 request dated 15 August 2018, please provide a list of searches, including search terms used.

Following the original request back in 2018 a review was undertaken by an experienced band 7 Haematology Specialist Nurse with an Interest in haemophilia care (Neil Toghil), supervised and supported by the Director of the Haemophilia Centre / Consultant Haematologist, Dr Jason Coppell. Neil qualified in 1989 and was employed at the Cardiff Haemophilia Comprehensive Care Centre from 1990, where he received first-hand experience of previous information-gathering exercises with respect to the exposure of patients with bleeding disorders to infected blood products. The Specialist Nurse was granted time on secondment to undertake the review over 5 days, working full time. A comprehensive review of retained centre files and patient case notes was undertaken, with the support of the Health Records Department and local clinical Nurse Specialists. Initial searches were based on the surname, forename and date of birth, where provided. Please see **W4431002**, IBI Inquiry Application Searches spreadsheet and the Records pulled for Haematology

manually searched through everything we had to try and find anything that might be relevant. The only electronic searches we performed were done through medical records, but that would have been using specific patient details as a means of identifying casenotes, inside which we were able to search for relevant documents. Therefore we didn't have a list of search terms as such; we simply manually searched for anything that looked like it might be relevant to infected blood or blood products, non-A-non-B hepatitis, hepatitis C, hepatitis B, HIV associated with haemophilia, VWD, bleeding disorders etc in our paper records.

During the review contact was also made with Dr Lee, a retired Consultant Haematologist and Director of Exeter Haemophilia Centre from 1985 until he retired in 2010. Dr Lee supported the review by being able to locate several useful sources of information that were sent in four batches to the Inquiry on 19th November 2018.

I can confirm that to the best of our knowledge, we searched every remaining repository of paper-based information for haematology patients, at RDE. Neil requested case notes for patients who are still alive and went through those as well, but unfortunately the notes for deceased patients were destroyed in line with Trust policy.

*Please note that the Trust does have treatment ledgers, which were not supplied to the enquiry as the original requests were for documentation relating to how the service operated rather than patient-specific information. The Trust has had one or two patients (or families) asking for these ledgers, which we have supplied after painstakingly redacting the names of other patients from PDF scans of the handwritten ledger pages. The Trust would be happy to supply scanned copies of the unredacted ledgers (they are just lists of patients and coagulation factors issued to them with batch numbers).

Section 2: A list of all the Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust information repositories (from 1950 to present day) such as local authorities, University archives and The National Archives, for which the Trust had or has any control, responsibility, or oversight.

To the best of my knowledge the Trust does not have any external information repositories.

Section 3: With reference to (2), please provide a list of the repositories and archives searched in response to the Rule 9(2) request, dated 15 August 2018.

The Trust undertook a comprehensive search of the following systems (please see W4431004):

Statement of Truth

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

Signed _____

GRO-C

Dated 29/05/2020

Table of exhibits:

Date	Notes/ Description	Exhibit number
	IBI Inquiry Application Searches spreadsheet	W4431002
	Health Records Policy, Destruction and Retention of Casenotes	W4431003
	Notes pulled for Haematology in Sept 2018 mapped against CILMS	W4431004
	Records Management Policy	W443105
	Evidence of casenotes destroyed	W443106