

Witness Name: Bernadette George  
Statement No.: WITN4475001  
Exhibits: WITN4475002, WITN4475003;  
WITN4475004; WITN4475005  
Dated: 30 June 2020

## INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

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### WRITTEN STATEMENT OF BERNADETTE GEORGE ON BEHALF OF ROYAL CORNWALL HOSPITALS NHS TRUST

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

I, Bernadette George, Director of Integrated Governance, will say as follows: -

1. **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.**
2. In our letter of 22 July 2019 we responded to your enquiry regarding "A list of search terms used when undertaking the task of complying with the Rule 9(2) request. And; A list of archives and repositories (if any) including a list of those searched" with the following response:
3. I can confirm Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust (RCHT) reviewed internal electronic and paper files:

S:\RCH-HaemServ-Admin\Haemostasis  
S:\RCH-HaemServ-Admin\Haemostasis Backup  
S:\RCH-HaemServ-Admin\Haemostasis\RCH Haem Centre service  
S:\RCH-HaemServ-Admin\Transfusion and specifically  
S:\RCHHaemServAdmin\Transfusion\HTC

4. Using terms of British; concentrate; factor; FVIII; haemophilia; hepatitis; HIV; infection; NVCJD; liver; plasma; recombinant; supply; transfusion; (transfusion) committee; UKHCDO.
5. I can confirm RCHT completed the search of the clinical physical and electronic records dating back to 1995.

**Section 2: A list of all the Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trusts 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.**

6. The Trust stores information in the following facilities:

Oasis Old Quarry Caton Cross Ashburton Devon TQ13 7lh	Iron Mountain Barton Hill Trading Estate Hereapath Bristol Avon BS5 9RD
Iron Mountain Unit 1&2 Lodge Causeway Fishponds Bristol Avon BS16 3LJ	Britannia Lanes Greenbottom Chacewater Truro  Cornwall TR4 8QW
AllStore Storage Pendown Business Park Pendown Cross Truro Cornwall TR4 9NE	Health Records Library Royal Cornwall Hospital Truro Cornwall TR1 3LJ
Health Records Library West Cornwall Hospital St Clare Street Penzance Cornwall TR18 2PF	The Public Records Office Krensens Kernow Little Vauxhall Redruth Cornwall TR15 1AS

**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.**

7. I can confirm that the Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust received and applied the instruction regarding the retention of all documents and information in relation to the Infected Blood Inquiry, in August 2018 through the Exeter Haemophilia Centre.
8. The Trust has an active retention and destruction policy in place and followed guidance in the Health Circular HC (89)20, Health Service Circular HSC 1999/053 and more recently the Records Management Code of Practice for Health and Social Care 2016 when appraising records for destruction. This means that records for those patients who received blood products in the 1970's and 1980's may now be destroyed, unless they are still receiving treatment.
9. The Records Management Code of Practice for Health and Social Care 2006, which superseded the HSC 1999/053, recommended that Oncology records should be kept for 30 years or 8 years after death. RCHT implemented this guidance.
10. RCHT Blood Bank records from 2000 onwards are held electronically, anything prior to this would have been paper based and filed in the patient record.
11. In 2015 RCHT implemented a total embargo on destroying patient records in response to the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA). This is currently still in place.
12. RCHT intends that the retention of all records for the Infected Blood Inquiry extending beyond the IICSA embargo until such time as the Inquiry has concluded.
13. The Trust is currently scanning some of its patient records and the Records Services, PAS & Data Quality Manager contacted the Infected Blood Inquiry to seek advice in relation to the Inquiry, the response was supportive of scanning and destroying the paper record as long as the record could be reproduced if requested.

**Section 4. If the records that were requested in the Rule 9 request, dated 15 August 2018, have been destroyed in line with Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust document retention and destruction policies, please provide copies of the relevant document destruction record or policy as exhibits to the written statement.**

14. The Trust has an active retention and destruction policy in place (WITN4475003) and destroys records in line with this policy. However, due to the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) the Trust has not destroyed any records since the middle of 2015.

**Statement of Truth**

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

GRO-C

Signed

Bernadette George,

Director of Integrated Governance, Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust

GRO-C

Dated

30 June 2020

**Table of exhibits:**

Date	Notes/ Description	Exhibit number
19/6/1961 -2/4/2007	RCHT Public Record Office Inventory (emails)	WITN4475002
29/11/2018	RCHT Policy to Manage Information and Records V3.1	WITN4475003
07/2016	Information Governance Alliance Clinical Retention Time Periods	WITN4475004
07/2016	Information Governance Alliance Corporate Records Retention Time Periods	WITN4475005