

Dated: 9 April 2020

Secretary

**On behalf of East Kent Hospitals University
NHS Foundation Trust**

Exhibits : 0

STATEMENT TO THE INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

I, Alison Fox will say:

1. My name is Alison Fox and I am employed by East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust (EKHUFT) as Trust Secretary.
2. I am making this statement in response to a request for a written statement pursuant to Rule 9(1), 9(2) and 9(4) of the Inquiry Rules 2006. This request was contained within a letter dated 14 February 2020 addressed to the Chief Executive of EKHUFT.
3. I can confirm that full physical and computer based searches were undertaken for relevant patient notes, minutes of any relevant meetings and any other blood related documents in the following places:
 - a) The Haemophilia Centre at Kent & Canterbury Hospital
 - b) The parts of the basements of Kent & Canterbury and Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother hospitals where medical records were stored
 - c) An external building at Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother Hospital where old records have previously been stored.
4. I can confirm that full physical and computer based searches were undertaken for relevant patient notes, minutes of any relevant meetings and any other blood related documents in the following places:
 - a) The Haemophilia Centre at Kent & Canterbury Hospital
 - b) The parts of the basements of Kent & Canterbury and Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother hospitals where medical records were stored
 - c) An external building at Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother Hospital where old records have previously been stored.

I also confirm that the Haemophilia Centre at Kent and Canterbury holds patient specific records for patients with haemophilia treated at East Kent Hospitals NHS Trust. These records have been made available on request by patients for the

purposes of the infected blood inquiry. No other non-clinical documents have been found within the haemophilia centre relevant to the inquiry.

I can confirm that no other documents pertinent to the inquiry have been found in the other areas specified above.

5. EKHUFT has not used any external information repositories, such as Local Authorities, University Archives or National Archives to store medical records. However, I am aware that the Registration and Archives Department of Kent County Council have been in contact with the Infected Blood Inquiry Team. In November 2019, EKHUFT on behalf of all predecessor bodies provided permission for any relevant documents it holds to be disclosed to the Inquiry but we understand that no relevant medical records were identified.
6. It also seems that previously to 1999, medical records and any other storage of documents were stored on site at the individual hospitals as both the Kent & Canterbury Hospital and Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother Hospital were built prior to 1950 as per your timescale. Therefore, it is likely, on balance that relevant documents were stored on these sites and not externally.
7. I have carried out a search for any relevant non clinical documentation such as minutes of board meetings and again, no relevant documents were identified.
8. The inquiry will be aware of the letter dated 11 September 2018 from EKHUFT's Chief Executive to the Solicitor of the Inquiry which provides details of the searches undertaken.
9. The haemophilia centre keeps patient specific notes separate from the main hospital notes. These notes have been kept past the normal retention period and to the best of my knowledge none have been destroyed.
10. I am aware that the Haematology Department have provided the Inquiry with medical records of deceased and living patients as and when they have been requested.

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

Signed..

GRO-C

Date... 9 April 2020

Alison Fox
Group Company Secretary