

Witness Name: Diane Wake
Statement No.: WITN4483001
Exhibits: WITN4483002
Dated: 27 March 2023

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF DIANE WAKE

I provide this statement on behalf of The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust in response to the request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 27 May 2020.

I, Diane Wake, will say as follows: -

Section 1: Introduction

1. [Introductory paragraph to include your date of birth, address, occupation and employment history.]

I am the Chief Executive of The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust based at Russell's Hall Hospital, Pensnett Road, Dudley, West Midlands, DY1 2HQ. I have held the position of Chief Executive at The Dudley Group since April 2017. Prior to that I was Chief Executive of Barnsley Hospital Foundation Trust from 2013 to 2017 and previous to that Chief Operating Officer and Chief Nurse from 2007 to 2013 at the Royal Liverpool University Hospitals.

Section 2: Response to Criticism by W2041

2. [Please insert your response to the criticism made by witness W2041 as laid down in the Rule 9 Request sent to you on 27 May 2020.]

Thank you for your letter of 27 May 2020 offering the Trust the opportunity to respond to criticisms set out in the attached statement of the witness, relating to testing and diagnosis with Hepatitis C between 1998 and 2000, following the earlier administration of infected blood products.

The Trust understands the importance of the work of the Inquiry, and we are keen to assist it in fulfilling its terms of Reference. We have reviewed the criticisms with dismay and with sympathy for the witness and have decided that we do not wish to put in a formal response in evidence. Those criticised by name, including the consultant, have long-since retired from the Trust. It appears that although the witness's understandable complaint was not dealt with well, the Trust did ultimately acknowledge that there had been a failure to advise at the time of the positive test and apologised for that failing.

I read the witness's description of events with considerable concern and disappointment that he had been treated in this way at a confusing and distressing time and that his justified and measured complaint was not quickly and properly addressed. I would like to repeat the apology on behalf of the Trust and add my own sincere and heartfelt apology for the way he was treated. I very much hope that things would be dealt with differently today but his experience and that of the infected and affected in their evidence to the Inquiry is a reminder to all those of us involved in the delivery of healthcare of our responsibility to be accountable when things go wrong and never to lose sight of common humanity.

3. The Open Letter is attached as exhibit WITN4483002.

Section 3: Other Issues

4. [If you hold further evidence, you consider may be relevant to the Inquiry's investigation of the matters set out in its Terms of Reference, please insert here.]

Statement of Truth

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

GRO-C

Signed _____

27 March 2023

Dated _____

Table of exhibits:

Date	Notes/ Description	Exhibit number
18 June 2020	Open Letter on behalf of the Trust	WITN4483002