

Russells Hall Hospital  
Pensnett Road  
Dudley  
West Midlands  
DY1 2HQ

Our ref: DW/KO\_VM 20-21

18<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Fleetbank House  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor, 2-6 Salisbury Square  
London  
EC4Y 8AE

By email only: NOT RELEVANT

Dear Ms NOT RELEVANT

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.

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I would be happy for this letter to be sent to the witness, or treated as an open letter; or if the witness preferred to write to him personally to apologise again on behalf of the Trust.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond.

Yours sincerely,

**GRO-C**

**Diane Wake**  
**Chief Executive**