

Witness Name: Mr Simon Weldon
Chief Executive Officer
Statement No: [WITN4488001]
Exhibits: NOT RELEVANT
Dated: 9 February 2021

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF KETTERING GENERAL HOSPITAL NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

I, Simon Weldon, will say as follows:-

1. Kettering General Hospital did not become a Haemophilia Centre until early in the decade 2000. Prior to this period, patients were referred to the Oxford Haemophilia Centre for both diagnosis and treatment. There was a short period when Health Authorities of the time were realigned and new patients were referred to Leicester before Kettering became a centre in its own right. It therefore follows that the Trust would not have created or held any records pertinent to the scope of the infected blood inquiry.
2. We confirm that there are no computer records dating back to the 1970's and 1980's and therefore no electronic searches or specific search terms have been used. To our knowledge, there are no archives or repositories from this period currently held. Haematology laboratory records are stored in the Pathology laboratory at Kettering General NHS Foundation Trust. However we have found no records dating back to the 1970's or 1980's.
3. Despite there being no haemophilia service provision at Kettering General Hospital prior to the early 2000's and in order to assist the inquiry as fully as possible we undertook a full physical search - the search described was a physical search of folders and shelves for documentation relating to the inquiry. This search included the following locations: Haematology Managers office, Haematology Consultant offices, Haematology laboratory and Blood Transfusion laboratory.
4. There is no electronic information relating to this period on the KGH Laboratory Information Management System which was installed in the mid-1990's.

Witness Statement – Infected Blood Inquiry

5. We have not been able to identify any standalone documentation directly relating to this request within this time period. The only documentation that exists is held in patients clinical notes. We confirm that in accordance with the inquiry's request of May 2019 we have extended document retention period in order to ensure no clinical notes are destroyed from this period.

6. The only external repository that serves the Trust we aware of is the Local Archives at Wootton Hall which is primarily for birth registers. Other records archived are general hospital statistics and otherwise.

7. We can confirm that we have not discriminated within our search on the grounds of gender or age in our response to your search request.

8. We confirm there are no documents which we are able to provide from this period, Kettering General Hospital did not become a Haemophilia Centre until early in the decade 2000. Prior to this period, patients were referred to the Oxford Haemophilia Centre for both diagnosis and treatment. There was a short period when Health Authorities of the time were realigned and new patients were referred to Leicester before Kettering became a centre in its own right.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed:

GRO-C

Date: 9 February 2021

