

Witness Name: Dr. John Graham Smith

Statement No.: WITN4491001

Exhibits: Nil

Dated: 29.06.20

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF DR JOHN GRAHAM SMITH

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 21.06.20

I, Dr. John Graham Smith, will say as follows: -

Section 1: Introduction

1. Dr. John Graham Smith

[GRO-C] Surrey. [GRO-C]

DoB: [GRO-C] 1952.

B.Sc., M.B.Ch.B., M.D. Previously F.R.C.P and F.R.C.Path until retirement.

2. Consultant Haematologist:

Royal United Hospital, Combe Park, Bath BA1 3NG (1986 – 2003). Clinical Director of Pathology (1991- 1999), Clinical Director of Medicine (1995 -1999) and Medical Director (1999 – 2002).

Frimley Park Hospital (FPH), Portsmouth Road, Camberley, Surrey GU16 7UJ (2003 – 2015). Responsible for care and treatment of patients with bone marrow disorders such as leukaemia, lymphoma and myeloma. Head of Laboratory Haematology and Transfusion Services across FPH, St. Peter's Hospital Chertsey and Royal Surrey Hospital Guildford.

3. No relevant memberships, past or present.

Section 2: Responses to criticism of Melanie Richmond (Case W2254)

1. I write this response in general terms as I have been retired from the NHS completely for five years and have no access to the patient's notes and am not in a position to fund private legal representation to access them. I have no recollection of this patient nor of her case. During my appointment as Consultant Haematologist at FPH, my role was predominantly as a Haemato-oncologist and was not involved in looking after patients with Haemophilia or von Willebrand's Disease. I presume therefore that she was under the auspices of my colleague, Dr. Peter Anthony Alton, who was the designated Director of the FPH Haemophila Unit. This would explain why I am described as a "friend" as I would not have been her physician. I have to say that in 29 years as a Consultant, I never "befriended" patients for obvious professional reasons. There is also a discrepancy between paragraphs 12 and 33 where, in the former, the patient "befriended" me and in the latter, I "befriended" her.
Personal correspondence held by patients about their management, are a valuable resource for their ongoing care. I do not know in what context this patient came to speak to me and, if I did agree to review her personal file of correspondence, I would certainly not have removed any documents. Furthermore, I would not have removed the file from the Hospital and it would have been held with the patient's main NHS notes in the Haematology Secretaries' Office. I would never have removed documents from this file as completeness of medical records is essential for the best NHS care but I cannot legislate for any loss of documents by whatever cause. Haematology patient notes were always kept in the Departmental Secretaries' Office where they were accessible at all times to Staff between 08.00 and 17.30. Many individuals would be able to enter this area to consult notes at any time.

Section 3: Other Issues

No other issues to raise.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed _____

GRO-C

Dated _____

29.6.20.