

Witness Name: Geoff Stokes

Statement No.: WITN4498

Dated: 6 July 2020

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF GEOFF STOKES, DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS, UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS COVENTRY AND WARWICKSHIRE NHS TRUST ("THE TRUST")

I, Geoff Stokes, will say as follows: -

Section 1. Searches, including search terms used

The following terms were used in searching for records related to the inquiry;

1. "Blood borne infections" + before 1999
2. "Blood-borne infections" + before 1999
3. "Haemophil" + before 1999
4. "Transfusion" + before 1999.....

These searches would find any records that included the above. For example, "Haemophil" would find "haemophilia" or "haemophiliac"

Section 2. The Trust's information repositories (from 1950 to present day) such as local authorities, University archives and The National Archives

5. The Trust has an archive service provided by Restore (previously TNT) and this has been the source of the search.
6. Their address is shown below;

Restore Archive Services
Tetron Point
William Nadin Way
Swadlincote
DE11 0BB

7. The Trust has used Restore since 2018. Prior to this the service was provided by TNT from 2006 and before that by Sala. With each transfer of contract all records were transferred to the new service provider although there was a great deal of archiving that took place around 2006 due to the building of the new University Hospital.
8. Restore have records dating back to 1931.
9. Searches were carried out using the log of records kept. This is in the form of a spreadsheet and lists all the boxes of records that are kept by our archive service provider (Restore).
10. The Coventry Archives office at Coventry City Council and the County Archive held by Warwickshire County Council both have historical records about the hospital which the Trust does not have any control, responsibility or oversight.
11. Enquiries were made to both the City and Council archive services earlier in 2019 but they found no records related to the requests made. From my recollection, I didn't specify search terms but explained the purpose of my enquiry and the context which led to the Inquiry being established. Unfortunately I don't have copies of those emails or the responses.
12. I have searched the archive databases of both University of Warwick archive (<https://mrc-catalogue.warwick.ac.uk/>) and Coventry University (<https://archivescatalogue.coventry.ac.uk/>) using the search terms shown in section 1 but there were no records identified.

Section 3. Repositories and archives searched

13. The repositories and archives searched are shown above in paragraphs 9 and 12

Section 4. This section should only be used if documents have been destroyed. Please explain briefly and exhibit copies of the relevant document destruction record or policy to the statement.

14. The Trust's records management policies require that any records destroyed are recorded. These would be shown on the spreadsheet obtained from Restore UK and there are no records of any destruction of records related to the Inquiry.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed _____

GRO-C

Dated 6 July 2020