

Witness Name: KARIN PAPPENHEIM  
Statement No.: WITN4504011  
Exhibits: None  
Dated: 21 May 2021

## INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

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### WRITTEN STATEMENT OF KARIN PAPPENHEIM

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I provide this statement in response to the request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 10 May 2021.

I, Karin Pappenheim, will say as follows: -

#### **Section 1: Introduction**

*Question 1: Please set out your name, address, date of birth and professional qualifications.*

1. My name is Karin Pappenheim of [GRO-C] London [GRO-C]. I was born on [GRO-C] 1954. My professional qualifications are set out in my CV attached at **WITN4504002**.

*Question 2: Please set out the positions you have held at the Haemophilia Society, and any other relevant organisations, and your role and responsibilities in these positions.*

2. I was the CEO of the Haemophilia Society from 30 March 1998 to April 2004.

*Question 3: Please set out your membership, past or present, of any committees or groups relevant to the Inquiry's Terms of Reference which can be found on the Inquiry's website at [www.infectedbloodinquiry.org.uk](http://www.infectedbloodinquiry.org.uk).*

3. As employee of the Society, in my capacity as CEO, I attended board meetings, committee meetings, and external meetings as required in performing my role. See my detailed witness statement.

## **Section 2: Responses to criticism**

### **Criticism by witness W1122**

Question 7: At paragraphs 23 and 24 of Witness W1122's fourth written statement, he refers to the relationship between the Society and the Birchgrove Group as distant and, at times, difficult. He states that infected haemophiliacs were treated as a stain on the Society's membership and an embarrassment. He says that he approached you and raised this issue with you and that the Society eventually agreed to appoint a HIV/HCV Co-ordinator. Please comment on this.

4. I note that witness W1122 believes that the Society was 'trying to distance itself from infected haemophiliacs' and asserts that infected haemophiliacs were treated as a 'stain...and an embarrassment'. That is not at all my view.
5. The Society was, during my tenure, an organisation of and for people affected by bleeding disorders, including those infected by HIV and HCV. All our communications referred to the impact of the contaminated blood disaster, mentioning the 1,200 infected with HIV and the 4,800 infected with HCV. The Birchgrove and Manor House groups were groups we worked with, although at times, relations were strained, as W1122 mentions. In my first year as CEO, I proposed a mediation should be arranged to try to improve relationships; this was not agreed to by the two groups. Thereafter, I recall that we continued to do our best to maintain relationships with both groups and to be inclusive. As CEO, from my previous career in the sexual health field, I was very aware of the stigma of HIV, and motivated to ensure that the Society provided support services for those affected. I was also a trustee of Terrence Higgins Trust, the national HIV charity, during my tenure at the Society, which I believe evidences my commitment to supporting people living with the virus.
6. I do not recall any reluctance to appoint an HIV worker: during my tenure we employed Babs Evans and Steve Fouch in this role.

7. At board level, amongst trustees, during my tenure were individuals personally affected by HIV and HCV, which I believe is important evidence that the Society was inclusive of those who were infected and did not see infected haemophiliacs as 'a stain' or 'an embarrassment'. In my first witness statement [WITN4504001] I go into more detail on the services the Society provided for people who were infected and our advocacy and campaigning on behalf of HIV and HCV affected members.

Question 8: At paragraphs 49 and 50 of Witness W1122's fourth written statement, he states that you kept the infected community at arm's length, and that he understood this to be because the infected community seemed to be a source of shame or embarrassment to the Society. Please comment on this.

8. As stated above at para 21 to 22, I would absolutely refute the suggestion that as CEO I wanted to keep the infected community at arms length. The reverse is true: I was highly motivated to campaign for all those who had been infected and to ensure that the Society provided support services for all those infected, which we did through our specialist HIV and HCV workers and a full range of information, peer support and events. People who were infected with HIV/HCV were involved at all levels in the organisation during my tenure: as board members, as volunteers, through support groups and in our campaigns.

### **Section 3: Other Issues**

9. There are no other issues I wish to raise.

### **Statement of Truth**

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

Signed

GRO-C

Dated

21 May 2021