

Witness Name: Charles Lister
Statement No: WITN4505403
Exhibits: None
Dated: 13 June 2022

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF CHARLES LISTER

I provide this statement in response to the request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 9 May 2022.

I, Charles Lister, will say as follows: -

Section 1: Introduction

1. My full name is Charles Edward Lister. My date of birth and home address are known to the Inquiry.
2. A criticism has been made by a witness with Inquiry reference W0726 in relation to my oral evidence at the Inquiry hearings. A copy of the witness's statement containing the criticism has been provided to me alongside the Rule 13 notification. On 29 April 2022, I notified the Inquiry of my intention to provide a response in the form of a written statement.

Section 2: Responses to criticism by W0726

3. Witness W0726 stated in her second statement of 5 August 2021 that

"I was disgusted to watch Charles Lister, who was the trustee of the Caxton Foundation between 2011 and 2015, provide evidence at the hearings. He asked why only 25% of those infected as a result of the contaminated blood scandal applied for financial support and made a comment that "they obviously did not need it".

4. This is not a view I have ever held. I therefore checked the transcripts of my evidence and cannot find the comment attributed to me. Sir Brian did comment that only about 25 per cent or thereabouts of Skipton registrants seem to have registered with Caxton and asked why this was. The transcript then records the following exchange:

CHARLES LISTER "Not everybody clearly wants to ask. A number of people may have felt that the last thing they wanted to do was to go to a charity like Caxton. You know, a lot of people felt it was coming with a begging bowl, felt it was a demeaning thing to do and I can see that perhaps some people would have been put off by that.

SIR BRIAN LANGSTAFF: In essence, this is or could be, if you are right, powerful evidence that the "begging bowl" approach was something which, despite all the difficulties, people found intolerable?

CHARLES LISTER. I mean, certainly that's the message we had from some of our beneficiaries, that, although they applied, they applied rather reluctantly because this was the only system available to provide support. But I think there was certainly a dislike of coming to ask for support which people might rightly feel should have been an entitlement rather than something to come and ask for and have to disclose personal information about one's finances, et cetera.

Section 3: Other Issues

5. I have no other evidence to add.

Statement of Truth

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

GRO-C

Signed _____

Dated 13 June 2022