

Witness Name: Alison Ramsey

Statement No.: WITN4506026

Exhibits: None

Dated: May 2021

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

THIRD WRITTEN STATEMENT OF ALISON RAMSEY

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

I, Alison Ramsey, will say as follows: -

During the assessment of applications by WIBSS, where is other external advice recorded, such as legal advice or policy advice relevant to an application, if not in the individual beneficiary file?

1. Any documentation/advice used in the assessment of an application would be filed on the beneficiary file of that individual i.e., on the IIZUKA database.
2. If any advice received was more general in nature and not specific to an individual application, it would also be filed on the shared WIBSS team drive, for reference when assessing similar applications in the future.

Would a statement prepared for the purposes of the Infected Blood Inquiry be accepted as evidence that an individual was infected with HIV or HCV via NHS blood or blood products in lieu of medical records?

3. The WIBSS team would always consider any new application to join the scheme sympathetically and it would be assessed on its own merits and supporting evidence available. We decide on the balance of probabilities i.e., that the infection is more likely than not to have resulted from NHS treatment with exposure to blood, blood products or tissue before 1st September 1991.

4. A statement prepared for the purpose of the IBI could be considered as part of an application if the evidence covered all the matters contained within our application form and we were notified that they would like to rely on that. We would then assess it against our criteria. Any new application would need to be made with some supporting evidence and background information. We would still require medical evidence to support the application, but as explained in previous submissions that would not be limited to just medical records. We do also consider other forms of evidence including the use of clinical coding and other medical opinion to support applications. We would encourage any potential applicant to contact the WIBSS team directly, as they can provide support in how to complete an application, based on the individual's circumstances.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed _____ GRO-C _____

Dated _____ 11/05/2021 _____