

Witness Name: Alison Ramsey

Statement No.: WITN4506027

Exhibits:

Dated:

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FOURTH WRITTEN STATEMENT OF ALISON RAMSEY

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9(1) of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 25 August 2021.

I, Alison Ramsey, will say as follows: -

In your previous statement dated 28 April 2021 and in your oral evidence you stated that information on discretionary grants is now available on the WIBSS website. Prior to the discretionary grant scheme being advertised on the WIBSS website, how was information on discretionary grants disseminated to beneficiaries?

1. Prior to the information being on the website, information would have been provided as part of the general contact beneficiaries had through engagement with the Welfare Support team.

How many counselling sessions is WIBSS able to host? Are there limits on the amount of sessions or the type of physiological support a beneficiary can receive?

2. The WIBSS Psychology and Wellbeing support team is an 'inhouse' service available to all beneficiaries and their families. We currently support 60

individuals. The number of sessions is determined based on clinical need, so will vary from beneficiary to beneficiary.

3. The Psychology and Wellbeing support team is made up of 0.2 whole time equivalent of a clinical psychologist which equates to approximately 2 sessions per week. The team also has 0.6 whole time equivalent of a specialist counsellor which equates to approximately 6 sessions per week.
4. WIBSS offers a flexible approach to the psychology and emotional wellbeing sessions offered based on the individual needs of the beneficiary and the psychological approach considered appropriate. The clinical staff on the team are highly experienced in offering a range of therapeutic options and believe that a flexible approach to the number of sessions offered is helpful. To date we have not had to limit the number of sessions offered to a beneficiary and hope that this will not be the case. We are able to keep up the referral demand which allows the service to be able to continue to offer the flexible approach to session length.
5. If demand were to exceed available time, then we would raise resourcing with the Welsh Government and consider options available. We would be guided by the Clinical Psychologist in the most appropriate option dependent on the nature of the demand.

Please could you advise how many WIBSS applications have been rejected on the basis of intravenous drug use?

6. Since WIBSS came into being in 2017, we have rejected 4 applications because of intravenous drug use.

In your previous statement dated 10 May 2021 you stated that a leaflet about the WIBSS service [WITN4506011] was issued to all GP practices in Wales. In your oral evidence you stated that WIBSS had not received any responses as of 20 May 2021:

a. Have there been any responses to the leaflet since then?

b. Have you provided GP practices with any further information since this leaflet was issued in February 2021?

7. We have not had any queries or applications linked to the leaflet since it was issued as far as we can be aware.
8. We have not provided GP practices with any further information since the leaflet was issued in February 2021. Primarily this is because we were waiting on confirmation of the new payment rates following the agreement on parity across the four UK (United Kingdom) schemes. The leaflet can now be updated to reflect these rates as per the Directions issued by Welsh Government on 13 August 2021.
9. Secondly it is also because most GP practices are continuing to operate under COVID-19 secure restrictions with limited onsite visits by patients, so access to a hard copy leaflet will be limited. However, it remains our intention to update and reissue the leaflet as soon as practicable.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed _____

GRO-C

Dated _____ 2 September 2021 _____