

Witness Name: ALISON RAMSEY

Statement No.: WITN4506036

Exhibits: None

Dated: 11 November 2022

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF ALISON RAMSEY

I provide this statement on behalf of WIBSS in response to the request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 11 November 2022.

I, Alison Ramsey, will say as follows: -

1. [Please insert your response to question 1(i)]

For a bereaved partner where neither they, nor their deceased partner have ever registered with either WIBSS or one of the AHOs.

In this instance, as neither have been registered with either WIBSS or one of the AHOs, we would need to establish proof of infection and how infection took place. Therefore, the applicant would have to complete an application form in respect of the deceased partner. This would require medical input, and evidence of how the infection occurred.

Once this was received and proof of infection and how infection took place established, the application would be approved in accordance with the terms of the scheme and the bereaved partner would be accepted onto the scheme.

The bereaved partner would then receive the relevant lump sum payment, which would have been paid to the deceased person, were they still alive. They would also then receive regular payments as a bereaved partner. The first year, would be at the full rate the deceased person would have been on, had they been on WIBSS, and subsequent years would be at 75% of the rate.

2. [Please insert your response to question 1(ii)]

For a bereaved partner where neither they nor their deceased partner have ever registered with either WIBSS or one of the AHOs, but where there has been successful estates claim on behalf of the deceased's estate.

WIBSS has always made payments to bereaved partners since the inception of the scheme. WIBSS would have made these payments if we had received an application from an estate, where the bereaved partner is still alive.

A successful estates claim could only therefore have been made to WIBSS if there was no surviving spouse/bereaved partner. On receiving an application from an estate, we ask if there is a surviving partner, and we also obtain the Will of the deceased when processing the claim.

To date WIBSS has received 5 applications from an estate, where neither the deceased nor the partner was registered with an AHO. All were approved and two resulted in bereaved partner payments being paid.

3. [Please insert your response to question 1(iii)]

(iii) For a bereaved partner who registered with one of the AHOs but where neither they nor their deceased partner have ever registered with the WIBSS, and their deceased partner did not register with one of the AHOs.

If a bereaved partner was registered with an AHO, and this was confirmed by Russell-Cooke, we would treat this as a "late transfer".

We would accept registration with an AHO as evidence the necessary checks regarding infection and transmission for the deceased partner had been satisfied.

We would then backdate payments due to the bereaved partner, to the start of the WIBSS scheme i.e., 1 April 2017. The backdated payment would include any additional lump sum money owed, because of the parity agreement made between the four nations schemes in 2021.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed _____

GRO-C

Dated _____ 11 November 2022 _____

Table of exhibits:

Date	Notes/ Description	Exhibit number