

Witness Name: Liam Mclvor

Statement No: WITN4507001

Exhibits: WITN4507002-015

Dated: 23 November 2022

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF LIAM MCIVOR

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 12 August 2020.

I, Liam Mclvor, will say as follows: -

Section A: Materials held by the scheme

1a. Materials held

Materials are currently held in a hard copy and electronic copy format. The hard copies are organised within the Regional Business Services Organisation (RBSO), Finance Directorate, Belfast in secure filing. The electronic copies are retained securely on the RBSO computer network.

1b. Schedule of materials

Hard copies:

- 96 beneficiary folders arranged in alphabetical order including their identification reference number
- 1 prospective beneficiary folder
- 1 correspondence folder
- 1 address labels folder

Electronic copies:

- 11 electronic subfolders contained with the BSO secure server detailed as follows:
 - o Application Form Templates
 - o Alliance House Organisation Source Information
 - o Checked E Financial Information
 - o Costings & Statistics
 - o Departmental Letters
 - o English Medical Professionals Credentials
 - o Equality Template

- o Blood Inquiry Information
- o Beneficiaries address labels
- o Scheme Pay Rates
- o Payments made to Scheme Beneficiaries

1c. Volume of materials

Hard copy materials would fit with in two medium sized storage boxes.
Electronic materials can be forwarded by email, pen drive or link

Section B: Setting up and operation of the scheme

2a Individuals involved in administration of the scheme

The individuals who have been and continue to be involved in the setting up, daily operation and oversight of the scheme and their roles and relevant dates are as follows:

- Mrs Wendy Thompson, Director of Finance, with effect from 1st November 2017
- Mr Simon McGrattan, Assistant Director of Finance, with effect from 1st November 2017
- Mr Colin Murray, Infected Blood Payment Scheme Manager, with effect 1st November 2017

2b Remit of devolved administration

The Regional Business Services Organisation (RBSO) administers the ex-gratia payments made to individuals under the Infected Bloods Payment Scheme for Northern Ireland. The scheme is the responsibility of the Department of Health Northern Ireland (DoH). The NI scheme is operated under a Service Level Agreement (SLA) between the two organisations which came into operation on 1 November 2017. The SLA is attached as Exhibit WITN4507011.

The policies relating to the scheme are the responsibility of the DoH. The RBSO interpret the policies in conjunction with DoH to create the procedures to administer the scheme.

The financial budget for the scheme is the responsibility of the DoH.

2c Reviews or consultations undertaken

The NI scheme has not undertaken any reviews or consultations regarding its policies or level of payments

2d Transition from Alliance House Organisation Model

The transition started with the NI scheme requesting that the Alliance House Organisations write to each of their listed beneficiaries confirming that they were content that their details could be shared with the NI scheme. Upon receipt of the consenting beneficiaries list RBSO wrote to each individual asking that they complete a questionnaire. This is attached as an Exhibit WITN4507012. The completed questionnaires were used to set up the NI scheme standing data and create the payment information. Checks were performed against medical data to

confirm the beneficiaries were registered in Northern Ireland. Where information did not match Alliance House Information the DoH instructed RBSO to rely on validity of the previous scheme administrators.

The NI scheme makes payments via BACS. Payments are made as close to, but no later than the 15th of each month.

3a Relationship between RBSO and DoH

The RBSO operate the NI scheme on behalf of the DoH under section 15(4) of the Health and Social Care (reform) Act (Northern Ireland) 2009

3b Policies and funding

The RBSO make the ex-gratia payments on behalf of the NI scheme. The funding for the payments is provided via Grant in Aid from the DoH. The DoH guarantee the funding required by RBSO. Anticipation of future funding is the responsibility of the DoH.

Section C: Number of beneficiaries

4a Scheme beneficiaries

How many beneficiaries are registered to receive support, how many are in the process of registering	96 beneficiaries registered in total 94 beneficiaries currently alive 1 In the process of registering
How many were previously registered with the Alliance House Organisations	
Which Alliance House Organisation	Skipton Fund Caxton Foundation Macfarlane Trust MFET Ltd
How many were automatically transferred during the 2017 transition	
How many are new applicants	

4b Beneficiary categories

Please indicate how many individuals are in each category of beneficiaries (i.e. HIV, HCV Stage 1, HCV Stage 2, family of deceased beneficiary (distinguishing spouse or children), etc.).	1 HIV Mono 2 HCV Stage 1 & HIV 1 HCV Stage 2 & HIV 56 HCV Stage 1 19 HCV Stage 2 15 Bereaved Spouse/Partners
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4c Payments types

Please indicate how many receive lump-sum payments, on-going	5 Lump-sum payments 85 On-going payments
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payments, discretionary payments, and/or some combination of these.	94 Discretionary payments (inc Winter Fuel Payments) 85 Combination of these
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4d Steps taken to identify eligible beneficiaries

No steps have been taken to identify additional beneficiaries

Section D: Determining eligibility

5a Decision maker

The RBSO is the decision making in relation to eligibility for the scheme

5b Eligibility from previous registration

The Alliance House Organisations forwarded all information regarding eligible beneficiaries by spreadsheet to the RBSO. On receipt of this information a form was posted to the beneficiary to verify that information received by the RBSO from Alliance House was correct eg name, address, banking details, condition, level of payments. Where information did not match Alliance House Information the DoH instructed RBSO to rely on validity of the previous scheme administrators.

5c Policies

The policies are attached as Exhibits

5d Statistics

Applications Granted	11
Applications Refused	7

5e Schedule of applications

Case	Entitlement Claimed	Status
1	Hepatitis C Stage 2 Payment & Lump Sum	Granted
2	Hepatitis C Stage 2 Payment & Lump Sum	Granted
3	Hepatitis C Stage 2 Payment & Lump Sum	Granted
4	Bereaved Spouse/Partner Hepatitis C Stage 1 Lump Sum	Granted
5	Bereaved Spouse/Partner Hepatitis C Stage 2 Lump Sum	Granted
6	Bereaved Spouse/Partner Lump Sum	Granted
7	Bereaved Spouse/Partner Lump Sum	Granted
8	One-Off Discretionary Payment	Granted
9	One-Off Discretionary Payment	Granted
10	One-Off Discretionary Payment	Granted
11	One-Off Discretionary Payment	Granted
12	Hepatitis C Stage 2 Payment & Lump Sum	Declined
13	Hepatitis C Stage 2 Payment & Lump Sum	Declined
14	Hepatitis C Stage 2 Payment & Lump Sum	Declined

15	Bereaved Spouse/Partner Hepatitis C Stage 2 Lump Sum	Declined
16	One-Off Discretionary Payment	Declined
17	One-Off Discretionary Payment	Declined
18	One-Off Discretionary Payment	Declined

5f Appeals and complaints

Where an application under this Scheme is refused, RBSO give notice of that refusal to the applicant. The applicant may appeal to RBSO within 3 months of the date of issue of the notice. RBSO may extend that time period at their discretion if due cause is shown.

A panel of persons will be established as the Appeals Panel who have not had a role in determining applications to consider appeals. Where the panel established refuses an appeal, RBSO give the applicant a note of the panel's reasons for refusing the appeal.

The Infected Blood Payment Scheme NI adheres to the RBSO complaints policy, because of the size of the document please see below a link for your information <http://www.hscbusiness.hscni.net/information/1706.htm>

Section E: Payments made

6a Schedule of payments

Spreadsheet of payments made attached as Exhibit 13

6b Impact of household income

The impact of household income on the payments received is shown on the payments schedule

6c Quantum of payments

The policies for quantum for payments to beneficiaries was determined by the DoH. No expert medical evidence was received or consultation from the beneficiary community sought.

6d Quarterly payments and projections

Quarter	Amount
October 2017 – December 2017	£160,382
January 2018 – March 2018	£229,608
April 2018 – June 2018	£235,683
July 2018 – September 2018	£219,018
October 2018 – December 2018 (cost projection)	£281,432
January 2019 – March 2019 (cost projection)	£182,182

Section E: Applications refused

7a Applications refused

A schedule of applications refused is attached as Exhibit WITN4507014

7b Appeals

A schedule of applications that have made appeals and their outcome is attached as Exhibit WITN45070115

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

GRO-C: Liam McIvor

Dated 23 November 2011

Table of exhibits:

Date	Notes/ Description	Exhibit number
	Application for Chronic Hep C	WITN4507002
	Application for Advanced Hep C	WITN4507003
	Application for Estate re Hep C Chronic & Advanced	WITN4507004
	Application for Estate Advanced Hep C	WITN4507005
	HIC Application	WITN4507006
	Income Top Up Application	WITN4507007
	One off Grant Application	WITN4507008
	Bereaved Spouse/Partner Lump Sum Application	WITN4507009
	Direction 2017 No.2 - Infected Bloods Payment Scheme	WITN4507010

	Service Level Agreement	WITN4507011
	Infected Blood Payment Scheme Information form	WITN4507012
	Bereaved Partner Information form	WITN4507013
	Payments Made to Beneficiaries	WITN4507014
	Refused Applications	WITN4507015

