



Witness Name: Mr Matthew Metcalfe

Statement No.: WITN4511002

Exhibits: WITN4511003 - WITN4511006

Dated: 5 November 2020

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF Mr Matthew Metcalfe

1. I, Mr Matthew Metcalfe, have held the position of Medical Director at Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust since Autumn 2017, and am positioned as an Executive Director sitting on the Board of Directors for the Trust. I will say as follows: -

Section 1. Searches, including search terms used

2. In relation to the searches and terms used in the search undertaken to comply with the Rule 9 request on the 15th August 2018, I can confirm that:
3. Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust operated as a haemophilia centre from around 2000 until 2013, although we are unable to confirm exact dates. Since around 2013 (when National haemophilia database quarterly returns ceased), Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust is no longer a haemophilia centre – we are now a satellite to Oxford providing emergency management of haemophilia only – we are no longer a haemophilia centre in our own right. Oxford supplies Northampton General Hospital with factor concentrates with stock cycling to prevent wastage as our trusts usage is very low. This is used for emergency care only in liaison with Oxford. All haemophilia cases are reviewed now by Oxford and haemostatic plans for any procedure they agree can occur here in haemophilia patients provided by the Oxford team.

4. Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust was a Haemophilia Centre and listed on the UK Haemophilia Centres Doctors' Organisation (UKHCDO) website and the National Service Specifications for Haemophilia and Inherited Bleeding Disorders from 2001 (See Exhibit A - copy of the 2006 version provided). The model of working meant the Trust was part of a 'hub and spoke' model operated by Oxford Haemophilia and Thrombosis Centre, with Oxford being the Comprehensive Care Centre.
5. We are unfortunately unable to locate any local documentation to confirm the exact date of the start or finish of 'Hub and spoke' arrangement. The Clinical Unit Manager of the Oxford Haemophilia and Thrombosis Centre has informed us that in the 1990's and early 2000's there was a Thames Valley Consortium for Haemophilia of which both the Oxford Haemophilia and Thrombosis Centre and Northampton General Hospital were members but having looked in their records, both paper and electronic, they can find no record of any formal, or informal, agreements between the Oxford Haemophilia and Thrombosis Centre and Northampton General Hospital, and has doubts that there was any formal agreements.
6. This model of care meant the majority of patients attended Oxford for their appointments and received treatment there as well. Mild or moderate haemophiliacs received shared care. Emergency treatment was provided by the Trust before transfer to Oxford, using guidelines provided by Oxford Haemophilia and Thrombosis Centre. Blood products were provided by Oxford. Consultants working at Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust liaised with colleagues in Oxford prior to giving any therapy here. Patients with haemophilia can be registered on the national database, both for Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust, and Oxford Haemophilia and Thrombosis Centre.
7. As documented in a letter dated 5th September 2018 from the Trust in response to the Rule 9 request, the Trust conducted and completed a thorough search to locate if possible any patient records which link to the key areas within the terms of reference for the Inquiry:-

- a. What happened and why?
 - b. Impact
 - c. The response of Government and others
 - d. Consent
 - e. Communication and information sharing
 - f. Treatment care and support
 - g. Candour, openness and cover-up?
 - h. Responsibilities
 - i. Recommendations
8. This search identified evidence of the 'hub and spoke' model of care relating back to the early 2000s, we have not been able to identify any records prior to this.
9. A letter from Oxford Haemophilia and Thrombosis Centre (23/04/2002) (See Exhibit B) containing a paper patient treatment register for patients linked to both Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust and Oxford Haemophilia and Thrombosis Centre at that time. This letter also advises patients receiving plasma derived Factor VIII from OHCT will be switched to high-purity product (Hemofil M, manufactured by Baxter). A random sample of patients was selected from page 1 of the register for whom we had access to their paper records. Paper records were available for four of the 15 names listed. One patient is identified as having received infected blood products in their clinic letters from Oxford Haemophilia and Thrombosis Centre. There is nothing in the notes to show blood products were provided at Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust.
10. None of the patients' records identify they received infected blood products from Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust.
11. A letter from National Haemophilia Database (16/07/2008) (See Exhibit C) regarding data cleaning exercise of severe haemophiliacs not treated at Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust since 2006, noted that only two patients on the list (of 22) had been seen by Northampton General Hospital

NHS Trust at that time. The notes were reviewed for both patients which concluded that neither had received infected blood products.

Section 2. The Trust's information repositories (from 1950 to present day) such as local authorities, University archives and The National Archives.

12. I can confirm that the Trust's information repositories (from 1950 to present day) are:

- Patient Administration system – Present day – CAMIS
- Quality Management System - Pathology – commenced 2005
- General Haematology database (Locally held) dates back to 2004.

13. All official Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust documents have been statutorily kept in the archive storage that Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust uses. Electronic record systems were not in place in the 1950's and so any paper record systems appear to no longer exist. Various documents, ledgers and confidential items such as patient and staff records have been transferred to the Central Records Office.

Section 3. Repositories and archives searched

14. I can confirm that the following repositories and archives have been searched:

- Patient Administration system – Present day – CAMIS
- Quality Management System - Pathology
- General Haematology database (Locally held)

Section 4. This section should only be used if documents have been destroyed. Please explain briefly and exhibit copies of the relevant document destruction record or policy to the statement.

15. Electronic record systems were not in place in the 1950's and so any paper record systems which may have existed no longer exist, but this is impossible to quantify as staff involved in patients care pathways are no longer employed at the trust.

16. It is not possible to identify what, if any documents were destroyed prior to the early 2000's when the 'Hub and Spoke' arrangement came into place, no documentation will have been destroyed since this time.

17. Records are maintained under the trusts 'Documentation Management- (Retention Policy)' (See Exhibit D) which was first issued in January 2007 and has been reviewed and updated on 3 further occasions since then in line with various requirements including but not limited to;

- Data Protection Act 2018 (c.29) [online] London: HMSO.
- Department of Health (2007) Information security management: NHS code of practice.
- Department of Health (2003) Confidentiality: NHS code of practice.
- Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation)

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Document title</u>
<u>Exhibit A:</u> WITN4511003	National Service Specifications for Haemophilia and Inherited Bleeding Disorders from 2001 (2006 copy provided)
<u>Exhibit B:</u> WITN4511004	Letter from Oxford Haemophilia and Thrombosis Centre (23/04/2002)
<u>Exhibit C:</u> WITN4511005	Letter from National Haemophilia Database (16/07/2008)
<u>Exhibit D:</u> WITN4511006	Documentation Management- (Retention Policy)

Statement of Truth

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

Signed 

Dated: 5 November 2020