

Witness Name: Andrew Poullis

Statement No.: WITN4512001

Exhibits: NIL

Dated: 10 July 2020

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF DR ANDREW POUILLIS

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 26 May 2020.

I, Andrew Poullis, will say as follows: -

Section 1: Introduction

Dr Andrew Poullis

BSc MBBS MD PGCert HBE FRCP

D.O.B. GRO-C 1970

Consultant Gastroenterologist and Endoscopist – St George’s Hospital, London

2005-present Consultant Gastroenterologist. Specialist in luminal disease, inflammatory bowel disease and endoscopy.

I am not a member of any groups or committees relevant to the Inquiry’s Term of Reference.

GMC No: 4120520

Section 2: Responses to criticism of W2254

I am writing this report in my capacity as a Consultant Gastroenterologist at St George’s Hospital, London. I have been a Consultant at St George’s since 2005. This report is written

using a combination of clinic letters and the electronic patient record along with my memory of events to answer the 2 points raised in the Witness statement, paragraph 12 claiming that she was “refused” an endoscopy and paragraph 15 with regards an alleged visit to a maternity ward in 1996.

Mrs Richmond was referred to me at St George’s Hospital in December 2010 by Dr Aftab Ala from Frimley Park Hospital.

She attended Frimley Park Hospital with abdominal symptoms and diarrhoea, and they had in fact carried out a colonoscopy on 11th November 2010 in Frimley Park. Due to concerns about her Von Willerbrands Disease no biopsies were taken and she was referred on to me for further management. I arranged an urgent clinic appointment and met her in early 2011 and made note about her symptoms of diarrhoea and rectal bleeding but also made note of her strong family history of Crohns’ Disease with GRO-C her brother being affected.

I discussed her further with our endoscopy Lead (at that point in time Mr Roger Leicester FRCS OBE) given that the patient had reported that she had been instructed to inform all healthcare workers that she had had possible exposure to new variant CJD. As were the guidelines at that stage a repeat colonoscopy was not felt to be appropriate as we had alternative methods with which we could diagnose her possible Crohns’ Disease. As I am sure the Committee is aware in individuals with risk of exposure to CJD any endoscopy equipment used has to be quarantined and essentially taken out of use indefinitely.

I arranged an alternative investigation (a nuclear medicine white cell scan) which took place on 26.01.2011 and it did reveal evidence of inflammatory bowel disease with a focus of moderate reactive inflammatory disease within the right side of the pelvis. Mrs Richmond made a complaint at that time, via her then MP Mr Jeremy Hunt, and moved her follow up for her Crohns’ Disease elsewhere. This complaint centred around why she did not have a repeat colonoscopy. This was answered in full at the time. Due to the time since this complaint and response I have been unable to locate copies of any correspondence relating to this.

Her statement that endoscopy was “refused” was erroneous as an alternative investigation, which confirmed my suspicions and made a clear diagnosis, was promptly arranged.

With regards the second alleged incident in paragraph 15, during 1996 I worked as a junior doctor in 3 different posts. Between January and February in General Medicine at Ashford

Hospital, Middlesex, between February and August in Accident & Emergency at University College Hospital, London and from August to December in Oncology at the Middlesex Hospital, London. None of the posts involved any maternity care. I had no post at St George's Hospital during this period and had never met the patient and would not have visited her on the maternity ward. I would not have said what is alleged to any patient. I am sorry that there seems to have been a case of mistaken identity.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed: GRO-C

Dated 10th July 2020