

Witness Name: Robert Woolley

Statement No.: WITN4526001

Exhibits: WITN4526002

Dated: 27 July 2020

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF ROBERT WOOLLEY

I, Robert Woolley, of University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust, will say as follows: -

Section 1. Searches, including search terms used

Your initial enquiry outlined that the nature and content of the documents and information was extremely broad. It did not outline any specific search terms which you required us to use. I would also note that given the broadness of the possible content and the manner in which you describe it would, given the nature of our business, return an unmanageable level of false positives (c.f. 'haemophilia', 'bleeding disorders', 'blood products') while the limits of an electronic search as I would assume is implied by your use of the phrase 'search term' would miss documents of potential value that do not mention key words specifically (e.g. "the treatment, care and support provided to those infected and their families").

We reiterate the content of our 2018 response in which we outline that we asked members of staff with knowledge of all likely repositories of information to undertake searches both manual and electronic using their specific knowledge and expertise. We do not have a record of search terms used.

To summarise, we briefly outlined the history of relevant services in Bristol and informed you our searches and relevant holdings were as follows:

- We hold individual patient records of patients who were or may have been affected, which we understand to be out of the scope of the inquiry, but still retain.
- We don't believe there is any other relevant documentation held by our clinical divisions following enquiries and searches undertaken by Clinical Haematologist and Clinical Haematology Director Professor Andrew Mumford.
- We would have held records of meetings of a Transfusion Committee in place at the time infected blood products were in circulation, but have no holdings of records prior to 2001.
- We have nothing relevant in centralised electronic document systems.
- The Trust uses a commercial archiving company for old paper records. These were searched by a consultant haematologist and found to contain nothing of relevance to the enquiry. We understand that documents were destroyed in 2014 in line with our normal retention policies, but unfortunately have no detailed inventory of what was destroyed.
- Our legal team currently holds no legal files electronically relevant to infected blood products. They have a list of files destroyed and none of these were relevant either. Our legal team have searched their paper files which go back to the early 1990s and have found no relevant information. There was a destruction exercise in 2008 for files older than 1990, but we do not know what the content of the destroyed legal files was.

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

The Bristol Archives (local place of deposit for material of interest to the National Archives, run by Bristol City Council), which is responsible for the

records of University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust and predecessor organisations.

Section 3. Repositories and archives searched

See above. As we informed you in 2018, there are no records specifically related to diseases of the blood, though there are number of minute books which would contain references. An index was provided at the time. Bristol Archives are responsible for these holdings and should be contacted directly at archives@bristol.gov.uk.

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.

We do not hold any relevant destruction certificates. Our current document management and retention policy is enclosed which endorses the record retention schedules outlines in the NHS Record Management Code of Practice.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed GRO-C

Dated *29 July 2020*