

Witness Name: Sir Michael Buckley

Statement No.: WITN4661001

Exhibits: TBC

Dated: 23 September 2020

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF MICHAEL BUCKLEY

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 21 August 2020.

I, Michael Buckley, will say as follows: -

Section 1: Introduction

1. I served as Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman from January 1997 to November 2002. I confirm that the letter of 4 September 2002 to which Lord Owen refers was written by me.

Section 2: Responses to criticism of W0663

2. The only criticism that Lord Owen makes of that letter is that it was "flippant in the extreme". I am entirely at a loss to understand this. The letter was a serious attempt, seriously expressed, to explain the considerations of law and practicality which led me to conclude that there was no adequate basis for an investigation by my office. I do not regard such considerations as flippant: they seem to me to be fundamental to good administration.

Section 3: Other Issues

3. As regards the other material in Lord Owen's statement:

- I cannot comment on the decisions of my predecessor, the late Sir Anthony Barrowclough, in 1988.
- The correspondence between Lord Owen and the Ombudsman's office in 2004 took place after I had retired. Again, I cannot comment.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed _____

GRO-C

Dated 23 September 2020