

5-Witness Name: Suzanne Rankin
Statement No: WITN4665001
Exhibits: WITN4665002-007
Dated: 5 March 2020

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF SUZANNE RANKIN

Statement for the Infected Blood Inquiry further to Rules 9(1), 9(2) and 9(4) of the Inquiry Rules 2006.

I, Suzanne Rankin, Chief Executive of Ashford & St Peter's Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Guildford Road, Chertsey KY16 0PZ will say as follows: -

1. In preparing this statement, I have relied upon the work performed by the Trust since we first received the Inquiry's requests. Trust personnel in both clinical services and governance have performed searches in line with the Inquiry's scope.

Section 1: A list of searches undertaken, including search terms to comply with your Rule 9 request, dated 15th August 2018

2. The following items were search for, supported by a Task and Finish Group of service area specialists:
 - All documents as listed by GRO-D Solicitor to the Inquiry, in his letter to me of 24 October 2019 (Exhibit 3) were emailed to all ASPH¹ staff to search for on 4 November 2019 (Exhibit 4)
 - Blood/transfusion audits
 - Blood/transfusion policies, guidelines and care pathways
 - Lookback exercises for people affected by infected blood
 - Hospital Transfusion Committee/Team meeting minutes and annual report

¹ Ashford & St Peter's Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

- Individual patient record searches as outlined in my letter to Mr Stanton of 6 November 2019 (Exhibit 2)
- Patient consent policies
- Patient Blood Management Committee/Team meeting minutes and terms of reference
- Quality governance committee exception reports
- Records handling from the Medical Records Service
- Risk registers
- Search methodology as described in my letter to Mr GRO-D of 12 September 2018 (Exhibit 1)

Section 2: A list of all the Ashford and St Peter's Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust's information repositories (from 1950 to the present day) such as local authorities, universities archives and The National Archives, for which the Trust had or has any control, responsibility, or oversight.

3. Ashford Hospital, Middle Sex, TW15 3AA
St Peter's Hospital Surrey KT16 0PZ
Berkshire and Surrey Pathology Services (BSPS)² headquartered at Portsmouth Road, Frimley Surrey GU16 7UK (only to the extent it may relate to our hospitals).
4. The trust has no known involvement with any repositories which may be held by external organisations such as local authorities, universities, or the National Archives.

Section 3: With reference to (2), a list of the repositories and archives searched in response to the Rule 9(2) request, dated 15 August 2018.

5. Ashford Hospital, London Road, Ashford, Middlesex TW15 3AA
St Peter's Hospital, Guildford Road, Chertsey, Surrey KT16 0PZ
Berkshire Surrey Pathology Services, headquartered at Portsmouth Road, Frimley, Surrey GU16 7UJ (only to the extent it may relate to our hospitals).

² Since 2012 when BSPS was formed, the Trust through its representation on the BSPS Management Board has had joint oversight of this pathology diagnostic provider along with 3 other hospitals: Frimley Health, Royal Surrey County, and Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trusts.

Section 4: If all the records that were requested in the Rule 9 request, dated 15 August 2018, have been destroyed in line with the Ashford and St Peter's Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust's document retention and destruction policies, please provide copies of the relevant document destruction record or policy as exhibits to the written statement

6. As I have outlined in my letters of 12 September 2018 and 6 November 2019, in line with legislation and policy governing the destruction and retention of records, some historical documents will have been legitimately destroyed and no record of any such items is believed to now be available.
7. I enclose as Exhibit 6 an email trail sent to the Inquiry with my letter of 6 November 2019 regarding the destruction of records in May 2015.
8. The Trust has secured all potentially relevant organisational documents identified from searches performed after 15 August 2018.
9. It is not practicable to make any assertions on the extent to which items have been omitted/not located from our searching owing to the passage of time.
10. The Trust's Document Management Policy³ is provided as Exhibit 5.

Section 5: Other

11. The below named exhibits form part of this statement:

Exhibit 1 Letter to GRO-D 12 September 2018

Exhibit 2 Letter to GRO-D 6 November 2019

Exhibit 3 GRO-D's letter of 24 October 2019

Exhibit 4 Email of 4 November 2019

Exhibit 5 Document Management Policy

Exhibit 6 Email trail from 2015 regarding destruction of records

³ Last ratified November 2017

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

GRO-C

Suzanne Rankin, Chief Executive

Dated

5 March 2020

Table of exhibits:

Date	Notes/ Description	Exhibit number
Exhibit 1	Letter to GRO-D 12 September 2018	WITN4665002
Exhibit 2	Letter to GRO-D 6 November 2019	WITN4665003
Exhibit 3	GRO-D 's letter of 24 October 2019	WITN4665004
Exhibit 4	Email of 4 November 2019	WITN4665005
Exhibit 5	Document Management Policy	WITN4665006
Exhibit 6	Email trail from 2015 regarding destruction of records	WITN4665007