

Witness Name: Quentin Sandifer, Executive Director of Public Health Services and Medical Director, Public Health Wales, Number 2 Capital Quarter, Tyndall Street, Cardiff CF10 4BZ

Statement No.: [WITN4672001]

Exhibits: [One Exhibit enclosed - WITN4672002: Search Strategy]

Dated: 14 September 2020

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF DR QUENTIN SANDIFER

I, Quentin Sandifer, in response to a letter from Giana Fyfe to me dated 21 August 2020, will say as follows:

1. In response to question 1: I am the Executive Director of Public Health Services and Medical Director at Public Health Wales NHS Trust. I commenced this position on 8 October 2012. The Executive Director of Public Health Services is a national leadership role in Wales with responsibility for strategically leading the development and operational delivery of a portfolio of Public Health Services including:

- All national screening programmes provided by the NHS in Wales;
- Health protection services including laboratory and clinical microbiology;
- Public health emergency preparedness and response.

2. Further to this response, as the Medical Director at Public Health Wales I am responsible for:

- Executive medical leadership and regulation;
- The Responsible Officer under the Medical Profession (Responsible Officer) Regulations 2010;
- Professional oversight of medical and non-medical (multi-professional) specialist public health and microbiology/infectious diseases training;

- Clinical and public health governance.

3. In response to question 2: The search strategy developed by the Chief Risk Officer at Public Health Wales is enclosed as Exhibit 1 [WITN4672002: Search Strategy] and contains the details requested in parts a., b. and c. of question 2.

4. In response to question 3: The name of the Chief Risk Officer at Public Health Wales is Mr John Lawson, and his address is Public Health Wales, Number 2 Capital Quarter, Tyndall Street, Cardiff CF10 4BZ. Public Health Practitioners consulted included Dr Giri Shankar, Professional Lead Consultant Health Protection, Public Health Wales, and his address is also Public Health Wales, Number 2 Capital Quarter, Tyndall Street, Cardiff CF10 4BZ. Another practitioner consulted in the search was Ms Zoe Couzens, Public Health Practitioner (Health Protection), at the same address. The search strategy developed by the Chief Risk Officer is referred to in paragraph 3.

5. In response to question 4 part a: The contact name and address of a relevant person at CDSC Wales is Dr Christopher Williams, Head, Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre (CDSC) Wales, Public Health Wales, Number 2 Capital Quarter, Tyndall Street, Cardiff CF10 4BZ.

6. In response to question 4 part b: To the best of our knowledge documents relevant to Wales may have been held centrally by the Public Health Laboratory Service (PHLS) before CDSC Wales was established in 1983, and copies of some primary documents may have been held centrally until the Public Health Laboratory Service ceased to exist in 2003. However Public Health Wales has not used PHE Colindale as a storage facility.

7. In response to question 5: Public Health Wales (PHW) did not exist prior to October 2009. The reference to PHW in this question is assumed to refer to organisations that provided public health services in Wales before October 2009.

8. Specifically in response to question 5: Public Health Wales has not knowingly stored nor does Public Health Wales now store documents at PHE Colindale.

However it is acknowledged that documents produced by Public Health Wales since it came into being may have been retained by PHE. My reading of this question suggests to me that the documents mentioned appear to pre-date the existence of Public Health Wales. As noted above it is possible that the Public Health Laboratory Service held documents before CDSC Wales was established in 1983, and copies of some primary documents may have been held centrally until the Public Health laboratory Service ceased to exist in 2003. Any request for documents so held, as well as any documents in the possession of PHE since Public Health Wales was established, would need to be directed to Public Health England.

9. In response to question 6: Pre-1974 health was administered by local councils and a national hospital board of management known as the Welsh Hospital Board. Further details are available from the National Archives. Public health including health protection services was provided by local government. Local government in Wales has changed since this time and there are currently 22 Local Authorities in Wales. Contact details for the current Welsh Local Authorities can be found here: <https://www.wlga.wales/welsh-local-authority-links>

10. From 1974-2003 the NHS in Wales was delivered by health authorities in various forms. This included hospital services as directly managed units. Public health moved from local government into the health authorities in 1974.

11. In 2002 the National Assembly for Wales decided to abolish the health authorities in Wales and replace them with 22 local health boards. These were established in April 2003. At the same time public health transferred into a division of Velindre NHS Trust and named the National Public Health Service for Wales (Velindre National Health Service Trust (Establishment) Amendment (No2) Order 2002 (SI 2002/2199) refers). A copy of the Order can be found here: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2002/2199/made>. The National Public Health Service was not a body corporate in its own right but a part of Velindre NHS Trust which was established in 1994 and is still in existence today. Contact details for Velindre NHS Trust are: The Chief Executive, Velindre NHS Trust, Corporate Headquarters, Unit 2, Charnwood Court, Parc Nantgarw, Nantgarw, Cardiff CF15 7QZ.

12. Meanwhile the Public Health Laboratory Service, which was established in 1948 as part of the National Health Service, provided laboratory and clinical public health protection services until it was abolished in 2003. In Wales the functions of the PHLS transferred, with other public health functions, into a division of Velindre NHS Trust (paragraph 11 refers).

13. In 2009 the local health boards were reorganised into the current seven health boards and Public Health Wales was established under the Public Health Wales National Health Service Trust (Establishment) Order 2009. A copy of the Order can be found here: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2009/2058/contents/made>.

14. In summary, and for clarity, the NHS organisations responsible for public health delivery prior to the existence of Public Health Wales are listed below. Only Velindre NHS Trust, the host for the National Public Health Service for Wales, exists today.

Eight Area Health Authorities	1974 to 1982	Disbanded
Nine District Health Authorities	1982 to 1996	Disbanded
Five Health Authorities	1996 to 2003	Disbanded
Twenty two Local Health Boards	2003 to Oct 2009	Disbanded
National Public Health Service for Wales (as part of Velindre NHS Trust)		
	2003 to Oct 2009	Disbanded
Public Health Laboratory Service	1948 to 2003	Disbanded

15. In response to question 7 part a: The organogram produced by the Inquiry is not correct. Public Health Wales is an NHS Trust established under the Public Health Wales National Health Service Trust (Establishment) Order 2009 (paragraph 13 refers).

16. The seven Local Health Boards referred to in the Inquiry's document attached to the letter from Giana Fyfe to me dated 21 August 2020 are independent autonomous NHS bodies accountable to the Minister for Health and Social Services in Wales. They were created in 2009 when the NHS in Wales was last restructured. There is no reporting line between Local Health Boards and Public Health Wales. Further

detail on the history and structure of the NHS in Wales can be found here:

<https://www.wales.nhs.uk/nhswalesaboutus>

17. Public Health Wales employs over 1800 staff including approximately 170 staff that work in the seven Local Health Boards under the managerial direction of the local Executive Director of Public Health. The EDPH is employed by the health board and not by Public Health Wales. Local Health Boards have statutory population health responsibilities including health protection, which they discharge under the leadership of the National Health Protection Service provided by Public Health Wales.

18. In response to question 7 part b: In compiling our original and this submission, no contact was made with the Health Boards. However, the Inquiry may wish to note that Swansea Bay University Health Board has recently made contact with Public Health Wales in the process of compiling their submission to the Inquiry.

19. In response to question 7 part c: The names of the Health Boards were not included in the search terms.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed:

GRO-C

Dated: 14 September 2020

Consent to use my statement

I, Quentin Sandifer, confirm that by submitting my signed written statement to the Infected Blood Inquiry, I consent to its use in the following ways:

- publication on the Inquiry website;
- reference and/or inclusion in any interim and/or final report;
- disclosure to core participants and where instructed, their legal representatives via the Inquiry's database or by any other means as directed by the Chair of the Inquiry;
- disclosure to any person or organisation, including any instructed legal representatives, who is the subject of criticism in my written statement, as set out in the Inquiry's Statement of Approach - Anonymity and Redaction.

I also confirm that I have been advised of the option to seek anonymity and that if granted my identity may nevertheless be disclosed to a person or organisation, including any instructed legal representatives, who is the subject of criticism in my written statement in order that they are afforded a fair opportunity to respond to the criticism. I have chosen not to exercise this option.

Signed:

GRO-C

Dated: 14 September 2020