

Witness Name: Dr Robert Ibbotson

Statement No.: WITN4678002

Exhibits: None

Dated: 6-9-2023

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

SECOND WRITTEN STATEMENT OF DR ROBERT IBBOTSON

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 13 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 6 January 2021.

I, Robert Michael Ibbotson, GRO-C, will say as follows: -

Section 1: Introduction

1. I was the Director of North Staffordshire Haemophilia Centre 1976-2004, Consultant Haematologist North Staffordshire Hospital 1975-2004, Senior Registrar in Haematology London Hospital 1971-1975. Providing laboratory and clinical management of patients with haematological malignancies and bleeding disorders and of late, thrombotic disorders. I retired in 2004.

Section 2: Criticism made by Witness W3160

2. I must preface this response by stating that I do not recall this Patient (witness W3160) from 30 to 40 years ago. I do not have access to the Patient's medical records and have not requested these for the purpose of responding to the criticisms of witness W3160. However, due to the time that has passed since the matters that have given rise to criticism are said to have taken

place, and the nature of those criticisms, I do not believe that the medical records would materially assist with my response to those criticisms, in this witness statement.

At paragraph 17, witness W3160 states that she was unwell for several weeks after receiving Factor IX in 1987. Witness W3160 explained that she phoned you seeking an urgent appointment and you stated that it could be a 'Hepatitis attack', although she was not jaundiced and had undergone no testing. Witness W3160 explained she was uncertain what made you think it was Hepatitis. She states that you did not mention that this was a permanent condition and 'made it sound like it would go away'.

3. I do not recall this Patient from 30 to 40 years ago, nor her medical condition, any testing of her that was undertaken, any advice that she was given, any treatment plan for her, or any of her medical treatment. However, I do not believe that I would have responded to the Patient in the manner suggested above as this was not my practice nor the way that I would speak to patients.

At paragraph 23 and 24, witness W3160 states that after informing you of her extreme fatigue in August 1992, you agreed to do some tests. Witness W3160 then explains she attended another meeting with you on 07 September 1992 where you disclosed her diagnosis of Hepatitis C. Witness W3160 states you informed her by saying, 'I am glad to tell you, you don't have HIV, you don't have Hepatitis B but I am sorry to tell you, you have Hepatitis C'. The witness comments that this was said 'very bluntly'. Witness W3160 explains that her husband was not with her because you had not warned her to expect bad news.

4. Again, I do not recall this Patient from 30 to 40 years ago, nor her medical condition, any testing of her that was undertaken, any advice that she was given, any treatment plan for her, or any of her medical treatment. However, I do not believe that I would have responded to the Patient in the manner

suggested above (in particular, bluntly) as this was not my practice nor the way that I would speak to patients.

At paragraph 25, witness W3160 states that after being told the diagnosis she asked what having Hepatitis C meant and that you responded 'oh you're another one that's going to sue me'. Witness W3160 explains that although this was said in a humorous manner, she did not feel this was appropriate. She commented that she knew you well over the years and understood that you had a 'jokey' attitude but that the way she was told of her Hepatitis C diagnosis was not appropriate.

5. As I have said above, I do not recall this Patient from 30 to 40 years ago, nor her medical condition, any testing of her that was undertaken, any advice that she was given, any treatment plan for her, or any of her medical treatment. However, I do not believe that I would have responded to the Patient in the manner suggested above (by saying that words to the effect of 'oh you're another one that's going to sue me') as this was not my practice nor the way that I would speak to patients. I would always endeavour to make patients feel comfortable, but in a professional context.

At paragraph 26, witness W3160 states that she requested further information regarding Hepatitis C but that you said you did not know much about the condition. Witness W3160 explained that you told her that the virus would attack her liver and once destroyed there would be nothing they could do, as she was too old to have a liver transplant. Witness W3160 states she did not ask many other questions because she was too shocked.

6. I do not recall this Patient from 30 to 40 years ago, nor her medical condition, any testing of her that was undertaken, any advice that she was given, any treatment plan for her, or any of her medical treatment. However, I do not believe that I would have responded to the Patient in the manner suggested above as this was not my practice nor the way that I would speak to patients. I would always endeavour to make patients feel comfortable, but in a professional context.

At paragraph 27, witness W3160 states that she informed her husband of the diagnosis and that she had not been provided very much information. Witness W3160 details that she was given a booklet by a nurse some years later, but in terms of the risk of transmission, they had to find the information out by themselves and she was 'not told anything by the doctor'.

7. I do not recall this Patient from 30 to 40 years ago, nor her medical condition, any testing of her that was undertaken, any advice that she was given, any treatment plan for her, or any of her medical treatment. However, it was my custom and practice to provide advice relevant to a patient's diagnosis.

At paragraph 33, witness W3160 states that she was unaware that she would be tested for Hepatitis C when she went for blood tests in 1992. Witness W3160 also refers to exhibit WITN3160002 to demonstrate that you had completed a test for HIV which was negative in 1985 but that she cannot recall being informed of the result of this test in 1985, only in 1992.

8. I do not recall this Patient from 30 to 40 years ago, nor her medical condition, any testing of her that was undertaken, any advice that she was given, any treatment plan for her, or any of her medical treatment. However, I am not sure that I understand the criticism in this paragraph. The witness says that she cannot recall being informed of the result of an HIV test in 1985. The Patient is therefore not saying that she was not told of the result in 1985 and I

do not recall the Patient. She states that she was HIV negative from the test result she recalls being given in 1992.

9. Also, from her statement she says that she was unaware that she would be tested for Hepatitis C in 1992. This was the first year when a reliable test was available for Hepatitis C. She says that she came to see me at a regular appointment in August 1992, gave her symptoms and so blood tests were carried out and she was given the results in person shortly thereafter. So, it would appear, from her statement, that the blood test undertaken in 1992, which tested for Hepatitis C, was at the earliest opportunity, she was given the results quickly and in person.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

GRO-C

Dated

6 - 9 - 2023