

Witness Name: MARTIN BELL

Statement No.: WITN4728055

Exhibits: WITN4728056

Dated: 21 November 2022

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF MARTIN BELL

I provide this statement on behalf of SIBSS in response to the request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 11 November 2022.

I, Martin Bell, will say as follows: -

1. What is the eligibility criteria for registering as a bereaved partner for SIBSS? In particular please set out what the eligibility criteria is:

(i) For a bereaved partner where neither they, nor their deceased partner have ever registered with either SIBSS or one of the AHOs.

If the husband, wife, civil partner or long-term partner died before they were registered with the Scottish Infected Blood Support Scheme, then they can apply to receive an annual payment of 75% of what they would have been entitled to if they were alive. If the spouse, civil partner or long-term partner was not registered with SIBSS or any of the UK schemes then they will need first to apply to register with the scheme, providing they were still married to or in a civil partnership or in a long-term partnership with their spouse, civil partner or long-term partner when they died and they were living together at that time.

If they were divorced, their civil partnership had been dissolved or were separated then they will not be eligible.

(ii) For a bereaved partner where neither they nor their deceased partner have ever registered with either SIBSS or one of the AHOs, but where there has been a successful estates claim on behalf of the deceased's estate.

Same as above; however, any lump sums paid will be considered, i.e. if the lump sum had been claimed by the estate and then later it was found that there was a partner, then the bereaved partner could apply for the regular payments but not the lump sums, as they had already been claimed.

(iii) For a bereaved partner who registered with one of the AHOs but where neither they nor their deceased partner have ever registered with the SIBSS and their deceased partner did not register with one of the AHOs.

While the former UK schemes have now closed, i.e. the Caxton Foundation, the Macfarlane Trust or the Eileen Trust, it is still possible to confirm whether a bereaved partner had been registered. Details of any support they have already received can be transferred and then the case transferred regarding. If the husband, wife, civil partner or long-term partner was already receiving an annual payment, then they will need to complete a short application and provide a copy of their marriage or civil partnership certificate; or evidence to support their long-term partnership, e.g. proof of shared financial arrangements, along with a copy of their photo ID, such as a driving licence, passport or bus pass. These along with proof of address, such as a bank statement or council tax bill will be used to confirm identity. The bereaved partner will also be asked to confirm the date of the spouse, civil partner or long-term partner's death, and that they were living with them when they died.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed _

GRO-C

Dated __ 21 November 2022 _____

Table of exhibits:

Date	Notes/description	Exhibit number
13 April 2021	SIBSS guidance document “Payments for Widows, Widowers, Civil Partners and Long-Term Partners of Beneficiaries who have died”	WITN4728056