

Witness Name: Martin Bell  
Statement No.: WITN4728057  
Exhibits: NIL  
Dated: 17 July 2023

## INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

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### **SEVENTH** WRITTEN STATEMENT OF MARTIN BELL

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I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9(1) and (2) of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 10 July 2023.

I, Martin Bell, will say as follows: -

#### **Section 1: Introduction**

**Question 1. Please provide up to date information on the number of persons registered with SIBSS in the following categories:**

- a. Infected persons;**
- b. Bereaved partners;**
- c. Others (if any - please specify);**
- d. Total.**

1. The table below covers all elements of this question. Note that regarding part c, the two 'others' highlighted against the Advanced HCV (Stage 2) section represent relatives of deceased from that category. These are included as members to allow SIBSS to pay for their counselling services.

| Category  | Primary Infectee | Secondary Infectee | Widow<br>Widower Civil<br>Partner | Other | Total |
|---|------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|-------|-------|
| Chronic HCV (Stage 1) with Widows Annual Payments | 0                | 0                  | 1                                 | 0     | 1     |
| Chronic HCV (Stage 1) - Moderately Affected       | 100              | 5                  | 12                                | 0     | 117   |
| Chronic HCV (Stage 1) - Severely Affected         | 163              | 8                  | 26                                | 0     | 197   |
| Coinfected  | 21               | 0                  | 8                                 | 0     | 29    |
| Chronic HCV (Stage 1)                             | 75               | 0                  | 7                                 | 0     | 82    |
| HIV   | 2                | 0                  | 6                                 | 0     | 8     |
| Advanced HCV (Stage 2)                            | 90               | 0                  | 65                                | 2     | 157   |
| Total   | 451              | 13                 | 125                               | 2     | 591   |

**Question 2. Further to SIBS0000132 paragraph 9, please provide an updated table for deceased persons infected up to 2023-2024 (30th June).**

| Deceased members      | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | As at<br>30 June<br>2023 | Grand<br>Total |
|-----------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|--------------------------|----------------|
| Chronic HCV (Stage 1) | 19   | 13   | 19   | 19   | 25   | 19   | 9                        | 123            |
| Coinfected            |      |      | 1    |      | 1    |      |                          | 2              |
| HIV                   |      |      |      |      |      | 1    |                          | 1              |
| Grand Total           | 19   | 13   | 20   | 19   | 26   | 20   | 9                        | 126            |

**Question 3. Please provide information on the number of interim payments made in Scotland to persons in the following categories:**

- Infected persons;
- Bereaved partners;
- Others (if any - please specify);
- Total.

| Number of Interim Payments Paid                   | Primary Infectee | Secondary Infectee | Widow,<br>widower, or civil<br>partner | Total |
|---|------------------|--------------------|--|-------|
| Advanced HCV (Stage 2)                            | 94               |                    | 63                                     | 157   |
| Chronic HCV (Stage 1)                             | 78               |                    | 7                                      | 85    |
| Chronic HCV (Stage 1) - Moderately Affected       | 102              | 5                  | 8                                      | 115   |
| Chronic HCV (Stage 1) - Severely Affected         | 167              | 8                  | 21                                     | 196   |
| Chronic HCV (Stage 1) with Widows Annual Payments |                  |                    | 1                                      | 1     |
| Coinfected  | 21               |                    | 8                                      | 29    |
| HIV   | 2                | 1                  | 6                                      | 9     |
| Total   | 464              | 14                 | 114                                    | 592   |

**Question 4. A UK Government spokesperson is quoted in a MailOnline article [RLIT0002135] saying that: “Our intention remains to pay those small number of estates referred to in the extract [a three-month window between July 2022 and October 2022] and work is ongoing to facilitate this.” With regard to this:**

- a. Please provide information on the number of payments made in Scotland to the estates of infected persons.**
- b. Please set out the qualifying criteria used in relation to these payments.**
- c. Please set out any plans to make payments to estates of infected persons and/or bereaved persons other than partners.**

2. In regard to part a and b above, SIBSS has not made any payments to estates of infected persons other than partners.

3. In regard to part c above, SIBSS has not set out any plans to make payments to estates of infected persons and/or bereaved persons other than partners. SIBSS would only make those plans once direction from Scottish Government is received to do so.

**Statement of Truth**

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

Signed:

GRO-C

Dated: 17 July 23