

Witness Name: Martin Bell
Statement No.: WITN4728058
Exhibits: NIL
Dated: 21 July 2023

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

EIGHTH WRITTEN STATEMENT OF MARTIN BELL

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 Widower Civil 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).

Please note in my previous submission, WITN4728057, I incorrectly included deceased widows when the question asked specifically for deceased persons infected up to 2023-2024 (30th June). The revised numbers are:

Deceased members	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	As at 30 June 2023	Grand Total
Chronic HCV (Stage 1)	18	13	17	17	19	17	5	106
Coinfected			1					1
HIV						1		1
Grand Total	18	13	18	17	19	18	5	108

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

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

Number of Interim Payments Paid	Primary Infectee	Secondary Infectee	Widow, widower, or civil 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: 21 July 23