

Witness: Tracy Taylor

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Statement No.1: WITN5528001

Exhibits: WITN5528002

Dated: 17 February 2021

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WITNESS STATEMENT OF TRACY TAYLOR

I, TRACY TAYLOR, of Nottingham University Hospital NHS Trust, Hucknall Road, Nottingham, NG5 1PB, GRO-C WILL SAY AS FOLLOWS:

1. I am the Chief Executive of Nottingham University Hospital NHS Trust ("the Trust") and have held this position since 30 October 2017. I make this statement in response to a request from the Infected Blood Inquiry ("the Inquiry") made on 14 February 2020 under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006.
2. As requested by the Inquiry, this statement sets out details of the Trust's information repositories and explains the searches undertaken by the Trust to comply with the previous Rule 9 request dated 15 August 2018. In summary, the Trust's position is that it has conducted reasonable and proportionate searches and the only documents/information which are potentially within the scope of the Inquiry's Terms of Reference and retained by the Trust, and have not already been provided, are individual patient records.
3. The facts and matters to which I refer in this statement are either within my own knowledge, in which case they are true, or where I have otherwise stated the source of my information, they are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

The Trust's information repositories

4. The Trust was established on 1 April 2006 following the merger of the Nottingham City Hospital National Health Service Trust and the Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham, University Hospital National Health
5. The Inquiry has asked the Trust to provide a list of all its information repositories (from 1950 to present day) such as local authorities, University archives and The National Archives, for which the Trust had or has any control, responsibility, or oversight.
6. I have discussed this request with the Trust's Records Manager, Deborah Coombs (who now has the title "Deputy Information Governance Manager") and have been provided with the following list of repositories that may hold information relevant to the Inquiry's Terms of Reference:
 - a. Paper and electric records held centrally as health records and departmentally by the haemophilia team, including:
 - i. Individual patient health records registered on the Patient Master Index and containing records of treatment and care and held on paper, computerised or microfilm/fiche format.
 - ii. Patient notes retained by the haemophilia unit for the purpose of helping families of deceased patients with claims for compensation for which they need to provide evidence. These records are all registered on the Patient Master Index and are stored by the hemophilia unit.
 - iii. Treatment records. There are 2 ledgers containing individual records of factor concentrate issued to patients 25/6/76-27/3/86 and 3/4/86-12/12/88. These records contain solely patient data. Most of the entries do not have any additional identifiers other than the patient's name. The data almost certainly duplicates information held by the National Haemophilia Database as it was the source document for reports to the NHD that were made in the 1970s and 80s.

- iv. The coagulation laboratory paper filing system. These records all refer to individual patients and contain demographic information, some clinical details and laboratory results. A member of the team has catalogued these so that we can cross check when a request comes in from a patient and arrange for a copy to be sent to the patient with their records. All of this information is patient identifiable.
 - v. The Trust's various electronic patient records management systems.
 - vi. The Telepath system (old blood transfusion LIMS which was set up around 1982/3). This captured the issue of blood and components but not whether or not a patient received transfusion.
 - vii. The haemophilia unit also holds summary spreadsheets of patient identifiable material related to previous 'look back exercises'. This information was originally obtained from all the sources mentioned above.
- b. The local Public Record Office Archive repository for Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust, QMC Campus, and QMC's predecessor organisation, Nottingham General Hospital, is Nottingham University's Department of Manuscripts and Special Collections (located at Kings Meadow Campus, Lenton Lane, Nottingham, NG7 2NR). This would be the location of any archived patient files, registers or business records that have exceeded the retention schedule within NUH policies and NHS guidance and which have been deemed suitable for archive preservation.

Searches conducted in 2018

7. By letter dated 15 August 2018, the Inquiry wrote to the Trust under Rule 9 to request any documents and information relevant to the Inquiry's Terms of Reference, with the exception of patient records. Specifically, the Inquiry requested documents relating to the following matters:
- a. The treatment of men, women and children with haemophilia or other bleeding disorders who were given infected blood products;

- b. The risks of infection associated with blood products;
 - c. The extent to which people given infected blood products were warned (or not warned) beforehand of the risk that they might be exposed to infection;
 - d. The systems adopted for the screening of donors and the collection, testing, licensing and supply of blood products;
 - e. The testing of those who were infected with infected blood products and how their infection status was recorded;
 - f. How the results of tests or information about their infection was communicated to those infected and affected;
 - g. The level of information that should be provided to those who were infected, when this should be provided and how;
 - h. The extent to which financial considerations affected decision-making when treating people with haemophilia and bleeding disorders;
 - i. The treatment, care and support provided to those infected and their families; and,
 - j. The destruction of documents and information described above.
8. By letter dated 4 September 2018, the Trust informed the Inquiry that it had conducted an extensive search of both its paper and electronic records but had been unable to identify any documents falling within the categories set out above. These searches would have been based on the terms of reference set out above at paragraph 7, however it is not possible for the Trust to confirm the specific terms used due to the passage of time.
9. By email dated 20 September 2018, the Inquiry requested the Trust to undertake further searches. The Trust responded to the Inquiry by letter dated 11 October 2018 as follows:

I can confirm that we do hold some lists dating from 1976 onwards of patient names and F8 products received. This information would also have been provided to the National Haemophilia Database, but is the source information from which their records would have originally been compiled. This data is in the form of a large ledger.

We also have some spreadsheets and hand written lists dating from look back exercises conducted in the past. These contain HCV testing results on patients and some of them include the product treatment information mentioned above. We have paper and electronic copies of some of this information and some is in the form of handwritten (and photocopies of handwritten) notes.

All this data has patient names on, and some also has information about unaffected relatives (contact information) as the data was collected for look back exercises to enable relatives of deceased patients, and current patients to claim under the Skipton Fund.

Whilst we realise that you are not looking at individual patient identifiable records at present, we do hold these should you require them in the future. In addition, should you require access to the QMCs predecessor organisations archive (Nottingham General Hospital), you can address your request to...

10. The Trust did not receive any further requests from the Inquiry for the information mentioned above.
11. The Inquiry's Rule 9 request dated 14 February 2020 asks the Trust to further explain the searches that were undertaken in 2018. I have discussed this with my colleagues at the Trust and confirm the following matters set out below.
12. First, the haemophilia team conducted searches of the repositories and archives listed above in paragraph 6(a). These searches were all physical, ie they involved members of the haemophilia team looking in all storage areas for documents that came within the scope of the Trust's request outlined above at paragraph 7. The team found no correspondence, meeting minutes or anything within the scope of the Inquiry's terms of reference, except for patient records and lists. They also found nothing that indicated there was relevant archived material held elsewhere.

13. Second, during the course of the Inquiry, the haemophilia team have also searched its electronic databases and centrally held patient records when the Trust has received a request from a former patient to do so. The searches conducted in this regard would have included the patient's name, date of birth and hospital number, and possibly a date range.
14. No searches were requested of the Nottingham University, Department of Manuscripts and Special Collections ("MSC", see paragraph 6(b) above) as the MSC had informed the Trust on 15 October 2019 that the inquiry had already contacted it and arranged a site visit to take place over a number of days to review the Trust's records.
15. To the extent that the Trust no longer holds records that may have previously existed then this is because such records were destroyed pursuant to the relevant retention and destruction policies that existed at the relevant time which were all based on NHS guidance. I understand from speaking to the Trust's Records Manager that these would have included the following records types and formats:
 - Individual patient records
 - Registers
 - Computer/electronically held records
 - Administrative Records
 - X-rays, scans, radiology records
 - Photographs/slides and images
 - Microfilm/fiches
 - Audio and video files

Further searches conducted in 2020

16. Following the Inquiry's letter dated 14 February 2020, the Trust asked its six Divisional Directors¹ to expressly confirm that no documents were held which might come within the scope of the categories set out above at paragraph 7.
17. All of the Directors confirmed that no relevant records are held, with the exception of the following:

¹ Medicine, Surgery, Clinical Support, Family Health, Cancer & Associated Specialties and Ambulatory Care

- The Clinical Haematology team holds around 4000 patient records for stem cell and bone marrow infusions (going back to approx. 1986), but there is no information specifically falling within the terms of reference (such as what components they received, when, and the consent process).
 - The Immunology Department has a record of two patients having been infected with Hepatitis C following administration of Immunoglobulin around 1993/1994 when a batch of immunoglobulin was infected. The patients were informed at the time and this was documented in the patients' notes. There is no other record existing other than the relevant patient files.
 - The Pharmacy Department would hold patient records relating to immunoglobulin but this would largely be confined to 'who had what' rather than those matters set out above at paragraph 7.
 - The Director of the Clinical Support Division confirmed that blood transfusions would have been given in theatre or prescribed by anaesthetists for postoperative administration but, again, any documented discussion with patients about such transfusions would be contained within the patients' files.
18. As noted above, it is the Trust's understanding that the Inquiry is not requesting the Trust to provide individual patient records at this time.

Document retention policies

19. As explained above, the Trust was established on 1 April 2006 following the merger of Nottingham City Hospital and the Queen's Medical Centre. Exhibited to this statement as **Exhibit WITN5528002** are the document retention policies that have existed since 2006. Prior to the merger, both organisations would have held their own policies. The Trust's Records Manager conducted a search for any policies that may have existed prior to the merger and located the following:
- a. The Queen's Medical Centre retention policy first approved in May 2002 and updated in May 2008
 - b. Department of Health Guidance dated January 2009; and

- c. Health Service Circular issued by the Department of Health on 19 March 1999.
20. Copies of the above documents are also Exhibited to this statement as Exhibit TT1-1.

Conclusion

21. The Trust acknowledges the important work of this Inquiry and the need for it to investigate in detail why men, women and children in the UK were given infected blood and/or infected blood products.
22. The Trust has at all times sought to cooperate with the Inquiry and its Rule 9 requests. The Trust has undergone organisational change over the years and the Trust is confident that it no longer retains any documents that are relevant to the Inquiry's Terms of References, with the exception of individual patient records and data. It is possible that other records are held by the Nottingham University's Department of Manuscripts and Special Collections but, as noted above, it is the Trust's understanding that the Inquiry has already made contact with this repository and searched the records held by it.
23. To the extent that the Inquiry seeks clarification of any of the matters discussed above or has any further requests for documents/information then the Trust would be willing to assist where possible. This includes any of the information set out in the Trust's letter to the Inquiry dated 11 October 2018.

STATEMENT OF TRUTH

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

Signed: GRO-C

Dated: 19 February 2021.