

Witness Name: Robin Swann  
Statement No.: WITN5570022  
Exhibits: [WITN5570023 –WITN5570026]  
Dated: 9 June 2021

## INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

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### THIRD WRITTEN STATEMENT OF ROBIN SWANN MLA

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I, Robin Swann, in response to the Rule 9 request from Emily Hinton, Infected Blood Inquiry, dated 4 June 2021, will say as follows:

#### **Response to criticisms of W2339**

1. In response to criticism from Witness W2339 in his third written statement WITN2339012 notified to me by way of a Rule 13 notification, I take this opportunity to set out some observations which I hope are helpful to Inquiry Counsel.
2. The Witness made his third statement to the Inquiry on 25 August 2020. At that time, it is not correct to say that I had withheld the £1million provided in the 2020/2021 budget, rather I had not yet decided how best to allocate it for the benefit of the infected and affected. I have provided statements and given oral evidence about this matter. The £1m provided in the 2020/21 budget was allocated, with an additional £0.1m provided from within the DoH NI budget, to support the increase in infected payments I announced on 30 August 2020.
3. The Witness wrote to me on 29 May 2020 (**WITN5570023**) CORR-1745-2020, and I was not able to respond until 27 September 2020. He also made two Freedom of Information requests which were answered on 7 September 2020. Ms Redmond referred to those communications and 69 others in exhibit WITN4066013 to her second statement to the Inquiry and these were

subsequently provided in full, along with other correspondence relating to the Infected Blood Payment Scheme in Northern Ireland, to the Inquiry on 7 May 2021. For convenience, the three documents relevant to Witness W2339 are exhibited in this statement and have Departmental references CORR-1745-2020 (**WITN5570023**), FOIDOH0068-2020 (**WITN5570024**) and FOI-DOH0131-2020 (**WITN5570025**).

4. The Inquiry will be aware from my previous statements (**WITN5570001** and **WITN5570019**) and oral evidence and the statements and oral evidence of Ms Redmond (**WITN4066001**, **WITN4066002** and **WITN4066019**) that I have taken considerable steps to communicate openly with beneficiaries of the Northern Ireland Infected Blood Payment Scheme and that I have increased payments and widened eligibility to include the bereaved. I am content that much progress has been made since I took up office and, indeed, since the witness provided his statement. Work continues at pace with the other UK nations to achieve greater parity of support across the UK for beneficiaries. I will be making further announcements in due course.
5. Finally, I exhibit an email (**WITN5570026**) from Witness W2339 to my Assistant Private Secretary dated 27 May 2021.

### **Statement of Truth**

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

Signed:

**GRO-C**

Dated: 09 June 2021

**Table of exhibits:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Notes/ Description</b>	<b>Exhibit number</b>
27/9/20	CORR-1745-2020 – Ministerial Correspondence Case	WITN5570023
7/9/20	FOIDOH0068-2020 – Response to Freedom of Information Request	WITN5570024
7/9/20	FOI-DOH0131-2020 – Response to Freedom of Information Request	WITN5570025
27/5/21	Email from Witness W2339 to DoH Assistant Private Secretary	WITN5570026