

Witness Name: Lord Peter
Brooke

Statement No.: WITN5597001

Dated: 06/12/2022

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF LORD PETER BROOKE

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I, Lord Peter Brooke, will say as follows: -

- 1.1. My name is Peter Leonard Brooke (Rt Hon the Lord Brooke of Sutton Mandeville). I was Secretary of State for Northern Ireland between 24 July 1989 and 9 April 1992. I was made a life peer on 30 July 2001 and retired on 18 September 2015. I provide this statement to the Inquiry in response to a Rule 9 request dated 4 November 2022. My date of birth and address are known to the Inquiry.
- 1.2. I occupied the role of Secretary of State for Northern Ireland for just under 3 years. Given that the events relevant to the Inquiry took place over 30 years ago, I have very little memory of that time.
- 1.3. My role, function and responsibility as Secretary of State for Northern Ireland was to lead the Northern Ireland Office as a cabinet minister and I had junior ministers and officials report to me on a wide range of government matters. I recall that security and political matters dominated my time which was natural given that my tenure was during the Troubles in Northern Ireland.
- 1.4. I do not recall having distinct responsibility for health matters or for policy in relation to blood and blood products within Northern Ireland. Northern Ireland was under direct rule during my time as Secretary of State and responsibility for health remained with the Department of Health and the Department of Health and Social Services (NI) as appropriate. I expect I would have had at best, tangential involvement in some health affairs but cannot now recall any participation in dealing with infected blood matters during my time in office.
- 1.5. I confirm that I do not hold any documents which might relate to the Inquiry's Terms of Reference and due to the limitations of my knowledge in recalling anything of relevance, I am not in a position to provide any responses which would assist in answering the Rule 9 questions.
- 1.6. I have deep sympathy for those impacted by the subject matter of this Inquiry and I regret not being able to provide any further information due to having no recollection of any involvement in dealing with infected blood matters

throughout my time as Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and cannot therefore assist the Inquiry further.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed.. **GRO-C: Brooke of Sutton Mandeville**

Dated..... *6th December 20-22*
(12)