

Witness Name: Timothy Ho  
Statement No.: WITN5698001  
Exhibits: Nil  
Dated: 12 October 2020

## **INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY**

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### **FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF TIMOTHY BOON LEONG HO**

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I, **TIMOTHY BOON LEONG HO**, of Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust, Frimley Park Hospital, Portsmouth Road, Frimley, GU16 7UJ (the “Trust”) **WILL SAY AS FOLLOWS:-**

1. I am a Consultant Chest Physician, Medical Director of the Trust and Executive Director on the Trust’s Board. I joined the Frimley Park Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (the predecessor to the current Trust) in 2004 and was appointed as Medical Director in December 2013. Prior to being appointed medical director I was the clinical director for medicine and lead consultant chest physician for the Trust, establishing a medical high dependency unit and a number of regional diagnostic services for respiratory medicine.
2. None of the current Trust management have any direct knowledge of the operations of the Camberley (Frimley Park) haemophilia centre service and there are no contemporaneous records relating to the operation of its service available to the Trust. To the best of our knowledge the Haemophilia Centre stopped operating in 2002, since which time two

legally distinct organisations have been responsible for the clinical services for patients. The current Foundation Trust came into being in 2014 some 12 years after the centre stopped operating. In the absence of information available from within the Trust we have sought to obtain information from other sources in order to respond to the Inquiry.

3. By way of historical background, Frimley Park Hospital NHS Trust was created in 1991. It acquired Foundation Trust status on 1 April 2005, becoming known as Frimley Park Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. On 1 October 2014, Frimley Park Hospital NHS Foundation Trust acquired Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, and became Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust, as it is known today.
4. In this statement I address the issues raised in the Infected Blood Inquiry's Request for a written statement under Rule 9(1) and 9(4) of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020. The questions asked were as follows and I respond to them in turn:
  - (1) Please confirm if, at any time, there has been a Haemophilia Centre affiliated with the Trust (or any iteration of the Trust) and the name of the Haemophilia Centre.
  - (2) Please confirm the years the Haemophilia Centre was active.
  - (3) Please list any Haemophilia Centre Directors who worked at the Haemophilia Centre whilst it was active and the years in which they worked there.
  - (4) Upon closure of the Haemophilia Centre, where was documentation sent i.e. to another Trust/a haematology department, to an Archive or another location?
  - (5) With reference to (4), please provide details of any Trust / Haematology department or Archive where documentation was sent.

- (6) If documents have been destroyed, please provide a record of destruction.

**Request 1. The Haemophilia Centre affiliated with the Trust (and its predecessors)) and its name**

1. The name of the Trust's former Haemophilia Centre was Camberley (Frimley Park).
2. There were and are, a number of "Haemophilia Comprehensive Care Centres" ("**CCC**") around the UK, as well as a number of haemophilia centres. The difference between these two centres, is that a haemophilia centre is where an individual goes for care related to their bleeding disorder, whilst a CCC deals with more complex treatment issues as well as routine care. Camberley (Frimley Park) was listed as a haemophilia centre (the "**Haemophilia Centre**").

**Request 2. The years the Haemophilia Centre was active**

3. We believe the Haemophilia Centre was active from 1977 and 2002.
4. The National Haemophilia Database ("**NHD**") keeps information on the diagnosis, management and complications of bleeding disorders based on data supplied by the relevant centres. The Department of Health requires the United Kingdom Haemophilia Centre Doctors' Organisation ("**UKHCDO**") to collect such data, and it is then stored at the NHD. Whilst the Haemophilia Centre was operating it sent relevant data to NHD.
5. As contemporaneous records no longer exist, the NHD has confirmed that the best way of identifying when a service or haemophilia centre may have ceased providing services is through the analysis of returns of treatment data, which are submitted by organisations on an annual basis.

6. The NHD has also confirmed that treatment data was submitted by the Haemophilia Centre to the NHD between 1977 and 2002. This information formed part of the organisation's annual returns, and it showed that blood factor replacement products were issued during this time period (with the exception of 1997, for which period NHD holds no treatment records).
7. There have been no paper or electronic activities (including any patient registrations, patient treatment records, and annual returns) from the Haemophilia Centre filed with the HND beyond 2002, which indicates that this is when the Haemophilia Centre became inactive to the best of our knowledge.

**Request 3. Haemophilia Centre Directors who worked at the Haemophilia Centre and the years in which they worked there.**

8. Following our communications with NHD and internal enquiries within the Trust we can confirm that the following Directors worked at the Haemophilia Centre whilst it was active and for the following periods:

1977 Dr C. C. Thomas  
1978 Dr C. C. Thomas  
1979 Dr C. C. Thomas  
1980 Dr Janet A. Shirley  
1981 Dr Janet A. Shirley  
1982 Dr Janet A. Shirley  
1983 Dr Janet A. Shirley  
1984 Dr Janet A. Shirley  
1985 Dr Janet A. Shirley  
1986 Dr Janet A. Shirley  
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1992 Dr Janet A. Shirley  
1993 Dr Janet A. Shirley  
1994 Dr Janet A. Shirley  
1995 Dr Janet A. Shirley  
1996 Dr Janet A. Shirley  
1997 Dr Janet A. Shirley

Between 1998 and 2002, if there were any Director/s at the Haemophilia Centre, this would have been Dr Peter Alton and/or Dr John Van de Pette.

9. NHD are in the process of scanning the remainder of the Haemophilia Centre's annual returns, as part of wider project to move to electronic records. Once this has been completed, further relevant information about the identity of directors may come to light. We can share that with the Inquiry or the Inquiry may prefer to request that information directly from NHD.

**Request 4. Upon closure of the Haemophilia Centre, where was documentation sent i.e. to another Trust/a haematology department, to an Archive or another location?**

10. As stated above, the current management do not have any knowledge of the operations of the centre service and there are no contemporaneous records relating to the operation of its service. We are therefore unable to confirm the whereabouts of where documentation was sent following the closure of the Haemophilia Centre.
11. We can confirm that the Haemophilia Centre filed the relevant data with the NHD whilst it was active. The NHD have confirmed that any documentation which was sent to the NHD will remain in the NHD archive, as the NHD retains all paper records from haemophilia centres. The paper-based database moved from Oxford to Manchester in June 2001 and became fully paper-less in 2002. Following this, no further paperwork would have been sent to or received by the NHD. Any reports of new

patients or any treatment issued would have been submitted using the NHD website (via the current N3 network).

**Request 5. Details of any Trust / Haematology department or Archive where documentation was sent.**

12. I would refer to my responses to Requests 4 and 6.

**Request 6. If documents have been destroyed, please provide a record of destruction.**

13. As noted above (a) the NHD holds relevant records relating to the years in which the centre was active and the registered directors; and (b) to the best of my knowledge and belief the Trust, being a successor organisation to those that ran the Haemophilia Centre, holds no corporate records relating to the operation of the centre whilst it was active. The Trust has not inherited any destruction certificates in relation to the corporate records of the Haemophilia Centre as far as we are aware. However the data relevant to the Inquiry's request has been sourced from the national database, as described above, and set out in this statement.

**Statement of Truth**

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

GRO-C

**Signed**

**TIMOTHY BOON LEONG HO**

**Dated 12 October 2020**