

Witness Name: Dr Patricia Sarah Galbraith

Statement No.: WITN5701001

Exhibits: WITN5701002-008

Dated: 23rd May 2023

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF Dr Patricia Sarah Galbraith

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 20 April 2021.

I, Dr Patricia Sarah Galbraith, will say as follows: -

Section 1: Information about you and your Father

1. In providing the statement, it would be helpful if you could set out at the beginning of your statement, and before you address other issues listed below, the following:
 - a. your name, address, date of birth and (if you wish) a short description of your current personal and family circumstances.

Dr Patricia Sarah Galbraith

GRO-C

D.O.B. GRO-C 1957

I retired from my post as a consultant in Palliative Medicine in May 2020, but continued to work as a locum through the pandemic.

I live in GRO-C with my own family and encouraged my parents to move to GRO-C also.

- b. some information about your father, your relationship with him, and what you believe to be his attitude towards his work and his colleagues.**

We are a close family, his interest in medicine interested me and he encouraged me to join the profession, like his father before him.

His work attitude was always to do his best, he was tremendously supportive of colleagues and with anyone he met he always tried to bring out the best in them and always looked for the good in them. There were very few people he did not get along with. He was never rude or loud but would try to negotiate to express and reinforce his views. If in a disagreement he would not overtly show anger but be persistent in expressing his views.

He was hugely respected and loved by his colleagues as evidenced by retirement letters I have from when he moved to the Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre (CDSC) from East London and when he retired from CDSC. The respect of his colleagues is also highlighted by the fact that his original CDSC colleagues continued to visit him at least once a year in GRO-C after his retirement. All his colleagues were equally important to him whatever their role, cleaner, secretary, doctor, nurse etc.

- c. in as much detail as you can provide, his employment history, including details of his role as a junior doctor in Lewisham, his appointment as a director at the CDSC, and the nature of his role and responsibilities.**

I attach a copy of my father's CV as exhibit **WITN5701002**

I know when he was a junior doctor at Lewisham he cared for an unusual haemophiliac family in which the women were affected. He drew up a family tree and I am unsure, but he may have published a case report.

As CDSC director his role and responsibilities were clearly set out in the job description. Accepting this job was difficult for him as it did not fit well with family life at the time. However, he had spent many years working to convince epidemiologists that a national surveillance service was needed (see papers published on this topic) and this was his opportunity. However, it was the other side of London, he did not want to move his family, he did not want to commute but finally he decided to take this post as he believed he could facilitate making a difference to and improving public health nationally.

Section 2: His role at the CDSC

- 2. We understand that you have a copy of the letter dated 9 May 1983 addressed to Dr Ian Field at the Department for Health and Social Security, in which your father advises that all blood products made from blood donated in the USA**

after 1978 should be withdrawn from use in the UK. Please explain in as much detail as you can:

- a. when your father first had knowledge about the risks of infection associated with blood transfusion and, in particular, the risks of infection with (i) Hepatitis B (HBV) (ii) Hepatitis C (HCV) (also referred to as Non-A, Non-B Hepatitis) and (iii) HIV? What were the sources of his knowledge? Did his knowledge and understanding develop over time?**

I don't know when he first had knowledge of the risks other than what he sets out in published papers and the letter of 9.5.83. There was a growing body of knowledge about HIV and he was in contact with all appropriate labs etc. nationally and internationally especially in the US to piece together the evidence and the medical community was learning more with knowledge developing over time, as did his. Alongside the referenced information I'm sure he had many conversations with appropriate colleagues and specialists nationally and internationally.

- b. what you know about how your father came to draft this letter, and why he might have felt it was necessary to do so?**

I do not know exactly, but my knowledge of my father leads me to believe that he would have expressed his view regarding ceasing imports of US blood products at all the meetings I'm sure were convened as the AIDS Action group, or similar. If he did not feel his views were being appropriately recorded/minuted or acted on he would have repeated them and when still not acknowledged or acted upon I can only guess that is why he felt he needed to formally state his views in a letter to Dr Field.

- c. his views on the response of other governmental bodies, or specific people, to the letter.**

I do not know his views on the response to his letter from others but naturally as he wanted to do the best to ensure the health of the public and individuals, he would have been disappointed and frustrated that his well thought out and researched opinion was not acted upon.

- d. his views on what action should have been taken at the time.**

His letter states what action he thought was needed, he had clearly very carefully weighed up the evidence, risks and benefits of imported blood factors used in treatment for haemophiliacs. He was clearly also concerned that there was no duty of candour, patients were apparently not informed of the risks, hence his comment that the suppliers of blood clotting factors should be sending a warning about their products.

- e. the extent to which he was affected by the lack of action or any pushback in response to this letter.**

Given that he was the most senior epidemiologist in the UK at this time, with national responsibility for monitoring and trying to contain any communicable diseases and he was proposing a plan to avoid harm and to avert what looked like a new and fatal disease from spreading uncontrollably, I can only imagine he felt frustrated and disappointed at the lack of acceptance of his views. I do not recall discussing this with him. He would, however, always listen to different viewpoints and weigh up the evidence. We had a variety of medical discussions over the years in which he would express his views and if I could give a good counter argument or an updated view then he would listen and if my argument was sufficient and he agreed then he would change to my view point. Equally if he did not agree with me he would present his opinion again and maintain his own view.

- f. how he dealt with any pushback from drafting this letter.**

From my knowledge of his approach and persistence in securing what he believed to be in the best interests of individuals and public health, e.g., pursuing the development and instigation of CDSC over many years, (this is evidenced in published papers) I can only assume he continued to be firmly persistent in expressing his views of the need to stop blood imports from US.

- g. his views on the continued import of blood and blood products into the UK during the 1980s.**

These views are expressed in the letter of 9.5.83

- h. any discussions you may recollect having had with your father about the letter in subsequent years.**

I do not recall subsequent discussions about his letter per se but recall his continued frustration with the PHLS and the undercurrent of persistent tension suggesting some senior doctors in PHLS may have believed that the PHLS was 'better than' CDSC and did not need CDSC

Section 3: Research papers and documents

With regards to any research papers or documents written by your father, please provide as much information as you are able to in respect of:-

- 3. information about any research projects he carried out in relation to people with haemophilia.**

see response to 1c, not a research project but a notable patient and family

4. information about any research he might have carried out in relation to establishing a link between contaminated blood and HIV/AIDS.

This is all recorded in the papers he published whilst at CDSC, these were all from the epidemiological view point not primary research to identify the disease. However, epidemiology often can identify the cause by careful and detailed observation of cases, notably as per Dr John Snow and the cholera outbreak in London.

5. copies of any relevant papers from the time of his work at the CDSC during the early 1980s.

These are in the public domain, I will try to provide what I can, or the appropriate references. My father kept copies of most of his publications

6. details of any other documents that you might hold which may be relevant to the Inquiry's Terms of Reference.

There are some letters I have which were sent between my father and Sir Dr Donald Acheson Chief Medical Officer, not in relation to AIDS but in 1980s which demonstrate the type of working relationships he had. These are referred to as Exhibit **WITN5701003**.

In addition I attach the following exhibits which refer to publications which the Inquiry may already have access to and other documents, namely:

List of Original Papers of Dr N S Galbraith 1960 onwards	WITN5701004
List of Unpublished papers of Dr N S Galbraith	WITN5701005
List of Medical News Articles Community Medicine of Dr NS Galbraith	WITN5701006
List of Medical New Articles BMJ Dr N S Galbraith	WITN5701007
Letter Dr N S Galbraith to the Advisory Committee on Distinction Awards 17 March 1982	WITN5701008

7. whether your father has provided evidence or have been involved in any other inquiries, investigations, criminal or civil litigation in relation to HIV and/or HBV and/or HCV infections and/or variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease ("vCJD") in blood and/or blood products. Please provide details of any involvement.

I am not aware of any evidence he provided other than making his letter available when this had apparently 'disappeared' when government papers were inadvertently destroyed.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed:

GRO-C

Dated: 23rd May 2023

Table of exhibits:

Date	Notes/ Description	Exhibit number
N/A	CV of Dr NS Galbraith	WITN5701002
1987 - 88	Correspondence between Dr N S Galbraith and Sir Donald Acheson	WITN5701003
1960 onwards	List of Original Papers of Dr N S Galbraith 1960 onwards	WITN5701004
N/A	List of Unpublished papers of Dr N S Galbraith	WITN5701005
N/A	List of Medical News Articles Community Medicine of Dr NS Galbraith	WITN5701006
N/A	List of Medical New Articles BMJ Dr N S Galbraith	WITN5701007
17 March 1982	Letter Dr N S Galbraith to the Advisory Committee on Distinction Awards 17 March	WITN5701008