

Witness Name: Professor Aileen Keel

Statement No.: WITN5736001

Exhibits:

Dated: 7 June 2021

## INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

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### WRITTEN STATEMENT OF AILEEN KEEL

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I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 28 May 2021.

I, Aileen Keel, will say as follows: -

#### **Section 1: Introduction**

1. My date of birth is GRO-C 1952.

My business address is as follows:

Level 2  
NINE Edinburgh BioQuarter  
9 Little France Road  
Edinburgh  
EH16 4UX

I am currently Director of the Innovative Healthcare Delivery Programme at the Usher Institute of Population Health Sciences and Informatics at the University of Edinburgh and also an Honorary Professor at the University of Edinburgh.

My previous employment history is as follows:

April 2014 to April 2015

Acting Chief Medical Officer  
Scottish Government

June 1999 to March 2014	Deputy Chief Medical Officer Scottish Executive Health Department/Scottish Government
December 1998 to June 1999	Principal Medical Officer Scottish Office Department of Health
August 1995 to June 2017	Honorary Consultant Haematologist NHS Lothian
March 1992 to December 1998	Senior Medical Officer Scottish Office Department of Health
June 1989 to February 1992	Private haematology practice in Harley Street and at Cromwell Hospital
August 1988 to February 1992	Honorary Consultant Haematologist Central Middlesex Hospital, London
	Honorary Research Fellow Middlesex Hospital, London
July 1987 to May 1989	Consultant Haematologist and Director of Pathology Cromwell Hospital, London
September 1986 to June 1987	Various locum posts at consultant and SR level in haematology St Mary's Hospital, London and Central Middlesex Hospital, London
February 1983 to August 1986	Registrar in Haematology Royal Infirmary, Glasgow
July 1981 to January 1983	Leukaemia Research Fund Fellow Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Glasgow
August 1979 to June 1981	Lecturer in Medicine University of Aberdeen Honorary Registrar in Haematology Royal Infirmary, Aberdeen
August 1977 to July 1979	SHO, then Registrar, on general medical rotation Southern General Hospital, Glasgow

February 1977 – July 1977

JHO in Surgery  
Royal Infirmary, Dumfries and  
Galloway

August 1976 to January 1977

JHO in Medicine  
Victoria Infirmary, Glasgow

## **Section 2: Response to criticism of W2235**

2. I am surprised by this statement. It was not, and never could be, in my power in my government roles as Acting Chief Medical Officer, Deputy Chief Medical Officer or Principal Medical Officer to prevent the holding of a public inquiry in this area in Scotland. The decision to hold a public inquiry rests solely with Scottish Ministers, based on advice provided by a range of policy and professional staff, rather than that of any individual.

The witness' understanding of my professional relationship with Professor Ludlam is erroneous. I have never worked in his laboratory. From April 1995, until Professor Ludlam retired, I carried out a weekly general haematology clinic with him in Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. Thereafter, until June 2017, I continued to undertake this clinic (which did not involve haemophilia patients) with other colleagues.

## **Section 3: Other Issues**

3. This statement is my response to the criticisms raised by Witness W2235. In the event that the Inquiry wishes a statement from me in relation to my former roles within the Scottish Office, the Scottish Executive Health Department and/or the Scottish Government, I am, of course, happy to provide that.

## **Statement of Truth**

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

Signed

GRO-C: Aileen Keel

Dated

7 June 2021

**Table of exhibits:**

Date	Notes/ Description	Exhibit number