

Witness Name: Andrew Kerr
Statement No.: WITN5753001
Exhibits: N/A
Dated: 9 June 2021

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF ANDREW KERR

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 8 June 2021.

I, Andrew Kerr, will say as follows: -

Section 1: Introduction

1. My date of birth is GRO-C 1962.
2. My address is known to the Inquiry.
3. I am currently an executive adviser for a charity.
4. My previous political history is as follows:

Sep 2007 to 2011	Finance and Economy Spokesperson
Oct 2004 to May 2007	Minister for Health and Community Care, Scottish Government
Nov 2001 to Oct 2004	Minister for Finance and Public Services, Scottish Government

Section 2: Response to criticism of W2287

5. As above, I was the Scottish Government's Minister for Health and Community Care between October 2004 and May 2007. I am obviously

disappointed at the characterisation of my position during this period on this very sensitive matter, the whole issue has been devastating for individuals and their loved ones.


6. In the opening to my written evidence to the Health Committee on this issue, I stated "I have every sympathy with those affected with Hepatitis C through NHS treatment. However, I remain to be convinced of the usefulness of a public inquiry into this matter. I am not convinced that there are any lessons to be learnt that have not already been learnt."
7. I also stated that "officials within the Health Department continue to respond to requests under Freedom of Information and I have requested that they be as open and transparent as possible. I have also commissioned a literature review of all the files held with a view to publishing relevant documents. This should provide a full picture from the written record of what happened."
8. I stated that I considered an inquiry was unlikely to uncover any new relevant evidence or information and would bring little benefit to the patients involved and I would refer you to the submission made by me on behalf of the Scottish Government to the Health Committee.
9. On the basis of the evidence and information before me, I did not believe that a public inquiry in Scotland would either uncover any new evidence or information that is relevant to the causes of the infection of NHS patients through blood and blood products, or lead to significant lessons for the future.
10. The purpose of the Skipton Fund scheme was to provide help to individuals with the extra costs that can arise from living with hepatitis C. I also commented at the time there was a balance to be struck between funding ex gratia payments to those affected and funding other demands on the health budget. As such, I did not consider there was a strong enough case for extending payments to dependants of those who died before the announcement of the payment scheme, that is, 29 August 2003.

Section 3: Other Issues

12. This statement addresses the criticisms made by the witness. In the event that the Inquiry wishes further information from me in relation to my role as Minister for Health and Community Care with the Scottish Government, I can, of course, provide that.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed _____


Dated 09/06/2021

Table of exhibits:

Date	Notes/ Description	Exhibit number