

Witness Name: Andrew Kerr

Statement No.: WITN5753002

Exhibits: N/A

Dated: 4 November 2021

## **INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY**

### **WRITTEN STATEMENT OF ANDREW KERR**

I provide this statement in response to the notification under Rule 13 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 14 September 2021 and the request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 30 September 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 witness W2287 in oral evidence**

1. Decisions such as these are very difficult and weigh heavily, not just in terms of the evidence before you as a minister, but also the knowledge that whatever decision is made will be impactful.
2. I watched and listened and read the work of the committee, I held a number of meetings to discuss the advice received and in turn received briefings from key officials and I felt that the decision taken was the appropriate one. I always took the view, both as an MSP and as a Minister, that it was our job to advocate on behalf of people and causes and I did that on this occasion and on many other occasions. On this occasion the balance was whether public value would be gained from an inquiry and, in good faith, and with a heavy heart knowing the implications of the decision, I did not support a public inquiry.
3. In reaching this decision, our focus, rightly or wrongly, was in terms of addressing the current situation of those affected.
4. The Scottish Government including myself always took the view that should new evidence arise then that should be considered and that remains my position today.

### **Section 3: Other Issues**

1. 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

**GRO-C**

Dated - 4 November 2021

**Table of exhibits:**

Date	Notes/ Description	Exhibit number

