

Witness Name: Natalie Breeze

Statement No.: WITN6656001

Exhibits: WITN6656002 - 008

Dated: 14th October 2021

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF NATALIE BREEZE

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 11 August 2021.

I, Natalie Breeze, will say as follows: -

Section 1: Introduction

1. The Royal College of Surgeons of England (RCSEng) has conducted searches within all of our digital records, our library records, our archives and our external file storage. Searched terms used were:
 - HIV
 - AIDS
 - Infected blood
 - Joint Committee for Higher Training in Dentistry
 - HIV Joint Advisory Panel of the RCS
 - Joint Committee on AIDS and HIV Infection
 - Blood Transfusion Task Force
2. RCSEng did not search terms such as 'committee' and 'working group' due to the fact that a significant proportion of our files mentions these words. It was therefore deemed that the work involved in such a search to identify possible

relevant information would be disproportionate and would result in a great many irrelevant results.

3. All relevant results have been disclosed to the Inquiry.
4. The work included a search of Bulletins published during the time period in question. Bulletins that mention at least one of the terms searched have been disclosed.
5. Items found of potential interest to the Inquiry were shared with the Infected Blood Inquiry on 10th December 2020 in an email titled *RE: Infected Blood Inquiry - Request for documents and information pursuant to Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006*.

Section 2: Response to Request for Material

6. RCSEng has provided the Infected Blood Inquiry with all relevant information found as a result of the search.
7. In addition, a consultation was made with Derek Alderson, past RCSEng President, who was a Council member during the period relevant to the Inquiry. He has confirmed that he cannot recall any additional documentation that could be relevant.
8. The Inquiry has requested additional relevant information arising from the minutes of a number of committees whose work might have touched on the issues pertinent to the Inquiry. We are unable to locate minutes for the committees in question or any related documentation. We are therefore not certain, and cannot provide information about, why the categories of documents requested are not held by RCSEng.
9. No retention schedules or destruction certificates/notes have been kept from the relevant time period. We have therefore been unable to determine whether relevant records existed or have been destroyed.

10. Current retention periods require that committee or working group minutes are held indefinitely. We do hold some minutes from committees and working groups in existence during the 1990s. However we are not able to confirm whether all relevant minutes were kept or whether the storage of such minutes was selective.

Statement of Truth

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

GRO-C

Signed Natalie Breeze (Oct 14, 2021 09:23 GMT+1)

Dated Oct 14, 2021

Table of exhibits:

Date	Notes/ Description	Exhibit number
Not Relevant		
02/12/2020	Search results – Infected Blood Inquiry	WITN6656003
01/01/2002	Bulletin 2002 – The influence of the BSS course on needlestick injuries	WITN6656004
01/03/2003	Bulletin 2003	WITN6656005
01/01/1987	Bulletin examples - 1987	WITN6656006
01/05/1998	Bulletin May 1998	WITN6656007
01/01/2002	Bulletin 2002 – 2	WITN6656008

Not Relevant