

Witness Name: Tracey Gillies  
Statement No.: WITN6932036  
Exhibits: None  
Dated: 9 June 2022

## **INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY**

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### **WRITTEN STATEMENT OF TRACEY GILLIES**

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I provide this statement on behalf of NHS Lothian in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 12 August 2021.

I, Tracey Gillies, will say as follows: -

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

**1. Please set out your name, address, date of birth and professional qualifications**

My name is Tracey Gillies, my date of birth is GRO-C 1966, and my professional qualifications are MBChB FRCS. My address is NHS Lothian, Waverley Gate, 2-4 Waterloo Place, Edinburgh, EH1 3EG.

**2. Please set out your current role at the Lothian Health Board and your responsibilities in that role.**

My current role is as Executive Medical Director with consequent responsibilities and as Responsible Officer for NHS Lothian.

**3. Please set out the position of your organisation in relation to the hospital/other institution criticised by the witnesses (for example "NHS Foundation Trust ('the Trust') operates from Hospital X and Hospital Y (formerly Hospital Z)").**

NHS Lothian is responsible for healthcare provision for the population of the Lothian area.

## **Section 2: Response to Criticism of witness W2105**

### ***Criticism by witness W2105***

4. At paragraph 10 of witness W2105's statement, the witness states that her step-mother should have been informed of her diagnosis much earlier. The witness believes that if this had been done, she would have received Hepatitis C treatment sooner and she would have lived longer.
5. At paragraph 11 of witness W2105's statement, the witness states that her step-mother should have been screened for Hepatitis C much earlier as doctors were aware that those who had been infected with HIV also had Hepatitis C.
6. At paragraph 19 of witness W2105's statement, witness W2105 states that when her step-mother required her cervix to be burnt away at the Western General Hospital, the doctors refused to give her anaesthetic because she had HIV. Witness W2105 asserts 'they just believed she was a drug user'.
7. At paragraph 20 of witness W2105's statement, the witness states that before the cervix procedure, her step-mother informed the nurse that she was HIV positive. 'The nurse ran down the full length of the ward, screaming at the top of her lungs, "She is infected! This patient has HIV!" for the whole world to hear.' Witness W2105 explains that her stepmother was then told by the doctor that she would not be given anaesthetic and that she would have to endure the pain, which she did. After the procedure she was told to get a bus home.

I am sorry that given the passage of time and the unavailability of contemporaneous records, it is not possible for me to provide comment on these specific criticisms. I am informed that the patient's hospital records have been destroyed in line with the Board's retention policy. Additional enquires were made about the patient's GP records but those, I understand, have also been destroyed in accordance with the

Retention and Destruction policy of Practitioner Services, and therefore are not available for consideration and comment.

I am very sorry to learn of the experience of W2105 and her stepmother.

**Section 3: Other Issues**

- 7. If there are any other issues in relation to which you consider that you have evidence which will be relevant to the Inquiry's investigation of the matters set out in its Terms of Reference, please insert them here.**

None

**Statement of Truth**

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

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ **GRO-C** \_\_\_\_\_

Dated 9 June 2022