

Witness Name: Tracey Gillies

Statement No.: WITN6932066

Exhibits: None

Dated: 09/11/2023

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF TRACEY GILLIES

I provide this statement on behalf of NHS Lothian in response to the request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 4 October 2023.

I, Tracey Gillies, will say as follows: -

Section 1: Introduction

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

1. 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.

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

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

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)").

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

Section 2: Response to Criticism by W5010

4. The criticisms the Board has been asked to respond to are set out at paragraph 64 and 72 of the witness statement of W5010, which state:

Paragraph 64

I do think I faced some stigma from the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary as I think they wrongly assumed that I was infected with HCV as a result of intravenous drug abuse. I also had to go get my blood tests taken at the same place that drug addicts went to. I did feel that I should not be here, but I just got on with it.

Paragraph 72

Skipton refused my application on the basis that I had apparently used intravenous drugs before. As I mentioned before, I have never used intravenous drugs and I never said I had, to anyone ever. Apparently, the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary had put on my application form that I used intravenous drugs but they later denied writing anything like that. My consultant told me that they did not even mention the use of drugs.

5. In my role as UK IBI lead for the Board I received the aforementioned Rule 9 Request of 4th October 2023. I identified Dr Andy Bathgate, Consultant Physician, as the most appropriate person to consider and respond to the criticisms made. He has now done so and his response is set out below, in his own words.

Response of Dr Andy Bathgate

6. W5010 has been under the care of the Scottish Liver Transplant Unit since 2012 having been referred by the consultant gastroenterologist at the Vale of Leven

Hospital. The Skipton Fund application was completed by the referring team at the Vale of Leven Hospital and not Edinburgh Royal Infirmary as indicated by W5010.

7. It is disappointing, from the Unit's perspective, to read that W5010 thought he was stigmatised because of his diagnosis of chronic hepatitis C infection. The liver transplant unit assesses patients from all over Scotland and chronic hepatitis C infection was a common indication for liver transplantation in 2012. The unit has various health professionals involved in the care of transplant patients with educational events emphasising a non-judgemental approach to care at all times. I can therefore only apologise on behalf of the Unit that W5010 thought that this was not the case during his time on the ward. W5010 overcame some very challenging times of significant illness on the unit and it is very regrettable that he feels that he was stigmatised at times during his care.
8. His subsequent follow-up clinic appointments took place in the liver transplant outpatient clinics based in Out-Patient Department 1 at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh which is a general clinic space for all specialties.

Section 3: Other Issues

If you hold evidence you consider may be relevant to the Inquiry's investigation of the matters set out in its Terms of Reference, please insert here.

9. None.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

GRO-C

Dated

09/11/2023