

Witness Name: Tracey Gillies
Statement No.: WITN6932067
Exhibits: None
Dated: 28/11/2023

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 26th 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 4 June 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 W5606

4. The criticisms the Board has been asked to respond to are set out at paragraph 27, 28 and 89 of the witness statement of W5606, which state:

Paragraph 27

I also remember that for a few days, the ward sister started to administer sherry to me. It was soon withdrawn when it was obvious that it was objectionable to me. In offering this statement, things I have not given thought to again have come to mind, as happens. At the time, I now recall that I suspected they were testing me. I can remember being insulted because I had been under their care for long enough for them to know that from day one, I showed no indication of being alcohol addicted.

Paragraph 28

Another incident, which even after all this time of having buried it, as I recall it now, brings back an emotional reaction. Not long before I was finally discharged from hospital in September 1978, I was interviewed by a most obnoxious female who consistently bullied me into trying to say that alcohol was an issue in my life. When one has been in hospital for all those weeks it is easy to become institutionalised and I felt very vulnerable. On telling my ward sister, she said that that person was not the right one for the job.

Paragraph 89

Secondly, after my Non-A Non-B Hepatitis diagnosis following my horse riding accident in 1978, I was talking to one of my neighbours who happened to be a nurse in the who had worked at the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary in the haematology department. During conversation, she had told me that I should have seen what was written about me in the 1978 Annual Report of the Haematology Department of the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. In that instance, I could tell that she had realised what she had said, and that she had told me too much information whereby she completely clamped up. My curiosity has remained to this date and I have wondered what is mentioned about me in the Annual Report. Apparently, the surgeon who had undertaken my surgery in 1978 had named me in reports and lectures, he in fact told me that himself. For what purpose, I am not aware. I would very much like to see a copy of this report.

5. In my role as UK IBI lead for the Board I considered the criticism set out by witness W5606 in these paragraphs. Practice in the NHS has changed considerably since 1978

and it is no longer practice in any part of NHS Lothian to provide alcohol to any inpatient. I am sorry that the witness describes behaviours and an attitude that should not have occurred.

6. In paragraph 89, witness W5606 identifies they wish to see a copy of the Annual Report of the Haematology Department of the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary for 1978. I have asked the Lothian Health Services Archivist and the current Director of the service Dr Andrew Page to search for such a report but regret to inform you that no such document can be found in the archive, in the current department or in the documents located in the offsite storage.

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.

7. None.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed



Dated

28/11/2023