

Witness Name: Victoria Hiscock

Statement No.: WITN6937001

Exhibits: WITN6937002-006

Dated: 05/10/20

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

SECOND WRITTEN STATEMENT OF VICTORIA HISCOCK ON BEHALF OF UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON HOSPITAL FOUNDATION NHS TRUST (UCLH)

I, Victoria Hiscock, Deputy Divisional Manager for Pathology within UCLH will say as follows: -

Background Information

1. I make this statement to respond to the Infected Blood Inquiry (IBI) Rule 9 request received by UCLH addressed to Professor Marcel Levi, Chief Executive of UCLH, dated the 13/02/20 and clarified by correspondence from the Inquiry dated 03/03/20.
2. I have been employed at UCLH in various Management roles since 2004; in my role as Deputy Divisional Manager of Pathology which includes the Blood Transfusion service, I have undertaken a coordinating role supporting the Infected Blood Inquiry on Behalf of UCLH. I confirm that I have the appropriate seniority, experience and knowledge to submit this witness statement on behalf of UCLH.

Searches undertaken to comply with Rule 9 request of 15/08/18

3. In response to the Rule 9 request dated the 15 August 2018 enquiries were made of current and former UCLH Haemophilia Centre clinicians and staff, including a retired clinical lead and a former laboratory manager.
4. These enquiries revealed that no electronic records were available predating the year 2000 (due to the previous system becoming obsolete and inaccessible), and there were no hard copy records identified in the Haemophilia Centre from the period that the Inquiry is reviewing.

UCLH information repositories

5. The Trust has the following repositories:
 - a. The UCLH Archive at 250 Euston Road;
 - b. Iron Mountain; and
 - c. Electronic Health Records System.
6. I am unaware of any further repositories which the Trust currently has any formal control, responsibility or oversight of.
7. The Inquiry may find the attached organisational history leading to the formation of UCLH useful. I attach this as **Exhibit VH6**.

List of Repositories searched in response to Rule 9 Request dated 15/08/18

8. The Rule 9 Request dated 15/08/18 specifically requested relevant documents and information held by the UCLH Haemophilia Centre, rather than any other UCLH repository.
9. Please refer to paragraphs three and four for a description of the searches taken to comply with the Rule 9 Request dated 15/08/18. For

the avoidance of doubt, there were no repositories identified to check at the Haemophilia Centre, and accordingly no search terms were used or documents/information uncovered.

10. Although it is difficult to be certain, the absence of such hard copy records in the Haemophilia Centre itself may be the result of various office moves and the destruction of the Middlesex site (the Haemophilia Service was predominantly based at the Middlesex site prior to becoming part of UCLH in 1994 via merger, after which the site was closed, sold off and redeveloped).
11. Records previously held at the Middlesex site may have been transferred to the main Trust Archive. UCLH has recently conducted a search of the Archive and the results are being made available to the Inquiry.

Destruction of documents in line with UCLH policies

12. Until recently the Trust did not maintain a register of documents disposed of under any relevant policies (or otherwise). It cannot therefore be said with certainty that any information or documentation requested by the Rule 9 Request dated 15/08/18 has definitively been destroyed – although this is possible.
13. The Trust now maintains a register of documents that it disposes of in line with its relevant policy. A copy of the current policy is exhibited to this statement as **Exhibit VH7**.
14. Destruction certificates spanning approximately 20 years have been produced by Iron Mountain in relation to any material that they have disposed of. These have been reviewed by a colleague with knowledge of the Inquiry's focus who has advised me that the destruction certificates only relate to pharmacy records which clearly were not of relevance to the Inquiry.

**Provision of collated information contained in previous responses from
UCLH to the Inquiry dated 21/09/18, 11/10/18 and 08/10/19**

15. I include the above responses as **Exhibits VH8, VH9 and VH10** to this statement and confirm that they are subject to the below statement of truth.

Statement of Truth

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true. I understand that proceedings for contempt of court may be brought against anyone who makes, or causes to be made, a false statement in a document verified by a statement of truth without an honest belief in its truth.

Signed _____ GRO-C _____

Dated 5/10/20