

Witness Name: Lynette Wells
Statement No. WITN6938001
Exhibits: None
Dated: 30 March 2020

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF LYNETTE WELLS ON BEHALF OF EAST SUSSEX HEALTHCARE NHS TRUST

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 26th February 2020 to our Chief Executive, Dr Adrian Bull.

In response to your four questions:

1) Of the searches undertaken to comply with the Rule 9 request, dated 28 September 2018, please provide a list of searches, including search terms used.

Our service is a small haematology unit across two district general hospitals and is not involved with screening of donors or the collection, testing, licensing and supply of blood products. Our blood is provided by the national blood service.

Our corporate affairs team undertook the search and liaised with the consultant haematologist who had been at the Trust since 1993 to establish whether he or the department held any relevant records, correspondence, guidelines or documents or were aware of any archives that existed. The department did not have any records that were relevant to the Inquiry.

Our Medical Director contacted complaints, Patient Advice and Liaison Service and the Freedom of Information team to see if they had any documentation. None of these departments had any documentation.

We reviewed our archive list for correspondence, instructions, notes, reports, policies and guidance or for records of any review that had taken place or if there were minutes of meetings. Searches included haematology, haemophilia, bleeding disorder, hepatitis, HIV, HCV, blood products, plasma, blood transfusion, blood infection.

We retrieved some boxes from the archive and searched through minutes and documents to see if there was anything relevant but did not find anything.

2) A list of all the East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust's information repositories (from 1950 to present day) such as local authorities, University archives and The National Archives, for which the Trust had or has any control, responsibility, or oversight.

We submit documents to the following local authority/university archive: The Keep, Woollards Way, Brighton, BN1 9BP.

3) With reference to (2), please provide a list of the repositories and archives searched in response to the Rule 9(2) request, dated 28 September 2018.

We searched the archive list that we hold for the Keep and did not find anything of relevance.

4) If the records that were requested in the Rule 9 request, dated 28 September 2018, have been destroyed in line with East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust's document retention and destruction policies, please provide copies of the relevant document destruction record or policy as exhibits to the written statement.

We believe that records may have been destroyed when the Eastbourne District General and Conquest Hospitals merged to form East Sussex Healthcare in 2011.

The Trust would have followed the national guidance on document destruction -
Records Management NHS Code of Practice Part 2 - Retention Schedule.

Statement of Truth

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

GRO-C

Signed _____

Lynette Wells
Director of Corporate Affairs

Dated 30 March 2020