

Witness Name: Dr Pamela Johnston
Statement No.: WITN7142016
Exhibits: None
Dated: 08/08/2023

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF DR PAMELA JOHNSTON

I provide this statement on behalf of NHS Tayside Health Board in response to the request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 25 October 2022.

I, Dr Pamela Johnston, will say as follows: -

Section 1: Introduction

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

1. Name: Dr Pamela Johnston
Address: NHS Tayside Headquarters, Ninewells Hospital, Dundee, DD1 9SY
Date of Birth: GRO-C 1964
Professional Qualifications: MBChB, FRCA

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

2. Medical Director – NHS Tayside
UK IBI Lead for NHS Tayside

Please set out the position of your organisation in relation to the hospital/other institution criticised by the witnesses (for example ‘NHS ABC Health Board (“the Board”)) operates from Hospital X and Hospital Y (formerly Hospital Z)’).

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

Section 2: Response to Criticism by W5342

At paragraph 48, witness W5342 states that there was a lack of attention and empathy exhibited by the medical staff at Perth Royal Infirmary when her late mother was admitted to Ward 3 for drainage. Please comment on this.

At paragraph 53, witness W5342 states that she believes her late mother would have died in March 2011 from medical staff not caring if an apparatus (CPAP) had fallen from her face during admission. Please comment on this.

At paragraph 86, witness W5342 states that her late mother was made to feel like a pariah after noticing an emboldened label on her notes stating 'Hepatitis C'. Please comment on this.

At paragraph 89, witness W5342 states there was a lack of medical empathy and general humanity at Ninewells Hospital and that her care was affected by her infected status. Please comment on this.

At paragraph 90, witness W5342 states that her late mother was not attended to when she needed assistance in a side ward, waiting for over thirty minutes, and would have to clean up her own sickness and diarrhoea. Please comment on this.

At paragraph 93, witness W5342 states that there was a lack of communication between the Orthopaedic ward and Liver ward following her late mother fracturing her ankle, causing her to suffer. Please comment on this.

At paragraph 94, witness W5342 states that there was a lack of holistic consideration for her late mother's clinical needs relating to the belief that she was over sedated with morphine and given too much fluids which exacerbated her liver condition. Please comment on this.

At paragraph 95, witness W5342 states that she was fearful her late mother's care would be impacted from making a complaint and the doctor calling her to ask why a complaint

had been made, and as a result did not make a formal complaint. Please comment on this.

At paragraph 96, witness W5342 states that the family was not provided with emotional and physical support during this period and they were very distressed. Please comment on this.

4. Unfortunately, the patient's medical records no longer exist, having been destroyed in accordance with the Board's retention guidelines at the relevant time. Accordingly, the Board is unable to comment on the specific criticisms made.
5. The Board apologises that this has been the experience of the patient and family in this case as the above falls short of the standard of care the Board aims to deliver. Please be assured that we take all feedback and criticism seriously and that we act on it to continuously improve the services we provide to all our patients.

Section 3: Other Issues

6. None

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

GRO-C

Dated

08/08/2023