

Witness Name: David Walsh
Statement No.: WITN7146002
Exhibits: Exhibits 1-4 - Copies of the
inside cover of care record packs as
explicitly requested by the Infected
Blood Inquiry
Dated: 21 October 2022

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF DAVID WALSH, DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS, ON BEHALF OF UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS COVENTRY AND WARWICKSHIRE ("THE TRUST")

I provide this statement on behalf of University Hospitals Coventry & Warwickshire NHS Trust ('the Trust') in response to the request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 15 September 2022.

I, David Walsh, will say as follows: -

Section 1: Introduction

1. On 15 September 2022, the Trust received notification of comments made in evidence submitted by witness W3125 in relation to her father (hereafter 'the patient') about replies received by the witness following the release of the patient's care records.
2. The comments sought the Trust's views in regard to:
 - a. Information added to the covers of the patient's care records in relation to their retention;
 - b. Copies of the inside page of the care records;
 - c. The witness's assertion that the information released to her by the Trust omitted records of care between 1986-1990; and
 - d. A copy of the Retention Policy in place between 1986 and 1990.

3. The Trust has investigated these matters and a response is set out below.

Section 2: Response to witness comments

Information added to the covers of the patient's care records

4. The witness asserts that the covers of the packs of notes relating to the patient's care each include one of the following statements: "CASE NOTES NOT TO BE DESTROYED: these records are retained because of special significance" or "LONG RETENTION RECORD: please see inside cover". The Inquiry has asked the Trust to comment on this.
5. The Trust's Health Records team undertook an internal exercise from 2011 to ensure records falling within the category for retention for 30 years, under the code of practice, as opposed to the standard eight-year period, were denoted as such. This was to ensure appropriate retention of those records by the third party contracted by the Trust. This involved identifying patients whose records would meet the criteria for longer retention, including patients with haemophilia.
6. The patient was identified as such as part of this internal exercise in 2013, and this was noted on the records.

Copies of the inside cover of the care records

7. This is included as the exhibits, and supports the detail described in paragraph 5 and 6.

The witness's assertion that the information released to her by the Trust omitted records of care between 1986-1990

8. The care record packs which it is believed were released to the witness have been reviewed and there is a record of activity between 1986 and 1990. Although the Trust now operates an electronic document system for recording information released to patients or their family, this was not in operation at the time of these records being requested so we cannot double check what was included. However, it would seem from the information supplied by the witness that the packs of records in which the

information from 1986-1990 are contained did form part of the release, so it is surprising if these have been omitted. If this is the case, the Trust would invite the witness to resubmit a request for records specifically between these dates, and it will be supplied.

Retention Policy in place between 1986 and 1990.

9. The Trust is unable to provide a copy of this policy as it is not held.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed: 

Dated: 21 October 2022