

Witness Name: John G. Davies

Statement No.: WITN71790021

Exhibits: None

Dated: 30/11/2022

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

SECOND WRITTEN STATEMENT OF JOHN GERAINT DAVIES

I provide this statement in response to a subsequent request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 3 November 2022.

I, John Geraint Davies, will say as follows: -

Use of the word “neutral” in the phrase “neutral factual leaflet about AIDS”

1. On 6 May 1983, Dr McIntyre provided you with a minute on AIDS, which appears to have been intended to assist with the preparation of a ministerial submission [**SCGV0000147_181**]. That same day, you provided Mr Mackay's Private Secretary with a submission on AIDS [**PRSE0004037**]. The word “neutral” was used in reference to a potential “factual” leaflet about AIDS in both Dr McIntyre's minute and your submission. The use of the word “neutral” was discussed by Sir Brian Langstaff and Counsel to the Inquiry during a presentation about government decision-making and the response of government in Scotland on 21 September 2022 [**INQY1000243** at 51/13-52/13¹]

¹ Also available online at

<https://www.infectedbloodinquiry.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/Transcript%20-20London%20-%20Wednesday%2021%20September%202022%20%28Presentation%20by%20Counsel%20to%20the%20Inquiry%20government%20decision-making%20and%20the%20response%20of%20Government%20in%20Scotland%29.pdf>

- a) *What did you understand the word "neutral" to be intended to mean in Dr McIntyre's minute to you?*
- b) *What did you mean by it in your submission to Mr Mackay's Private Secretary?*
- c) *Did you discuss the suggestion that a leaflet about AIDS should be "neutral" with Dr McIntyre or anyone else, whether before, on or after 6 May 1983? If so, please describe the nature of those discussions so far as you are able to do so.*

1.1. As to (a) after almost 40 years, I do not recall what I thought at the time, though I doubt if I considered "neutral" to be a controversial word. The context is that the word was used by Dr McIntyre and I have no way of knowing his intention for certain. My opinion in 2022 is that the leaflet was intended to present in 1983 the then known facts in a non-emotive and non-judgemental way.

1.2. As to (b) I refer to my answer at 1.1 above. There is no indication that Mr Mackay had any difficulties with the word.

1.3. As to (c) I do not recall but think it unlikely that I had any discussions with anyone before or after 6 May 1983 about the suggestion that the leaflet should be neutral. The SNBTS was to prepare the leaflet (correctly) and the time for discussion would have been if the SHHD had been sent a draft for comment.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed _____

GRO-C

Dated _____

30/11/22