INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF DAVID FRENCH

I provide this statement on behalf of University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust in response to the request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 31 August 2022.

I, David French, will say as follows: -

Section 1: Introduction

1. I, David French, Chief Executive Officer of University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust, Tremona Road, Southampton, SO16 6YD. I joined the Trust in February 2016 as the Chief Financial Officer. Between April to September 2018, I was interim Chief Executive Officer, a role that I was appointed to again in November 2020, before being appointed to the role substantively in April 2021.

Section 2: Response to Criticism(s) by witness W5532

2. University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust is the organisation responsible for Southampton General Hospital where Mrs O'Shaughnessy received care in the final years of her life. The Trust extends its sympathies to Mr O'Shaughnessy for the direct and subsequent impacts that the transfusion of infected blood has had on him, his late wife and their family.

3. Given the length of time since Mrs O'Shaughnessy's death, it is not possible to respond in detail to Mr O'Shaughnessy's comments regarding poor nursing care at

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the hospital, however the Trust acknowledges the concerns and apologises for any lapses of care that may have occurred.

4. Since the time of these events, the Trust has worked hard to improve processes and care through a culture of 'patients first', with kindness and compassion at the heart of everything we do.

Section 3: Other Issues

5. There is no additional evidence that is relevant to the Inquiry's investigation of the matters set out in its Terms of Reference, please insert here.

Statement of Truth

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

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GRO-C

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Signed _

David French

Chief Executive Officer

Dated 15 September 2022