

Witness Name: Camille Harron

Statement No.: WITN7457001

Exhibits: WITN7457002

Dated: 12/12/2022

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF CAMILLE HARRON

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 20 October 2022.

I, Camille Harron, will say as follows: -

Section 1: Introduction

1. I am Joanne Camille Harron. I am completing this statement as Interim Postgraduate Dean and Director of Education for the Northern Ireland Medical and Dental Training Agency (NIMDTA) as the previous post-holder, Dr Ian Steele, retired on 31/10/22. NIMDTA is located at Beechill House, 42 Beechill Road, Belfast. My date of birth is GRO-C 1966. My qualifications are BM, BCh, PhD and FRCP (London). I also have Masters qualifications in Clinical Education and Career Counselling and Coaching.
2. The Director of Education/Postgraduate Medical Dean is a Senior Executive role responsible to the Chief Executive for the leadership of postgraduate medical and dental education and training for NIMDTA. They participate at a national level in the strategic development of policy on postgraduate medical and dental education and training, ensuring that the strategic interests of the

health community within Northern Ireland are promoted effectively. They work in partnership with the Health and Social Care Board, Public Health Agency, HSC Trusts and other local education providers to maximise the educational opportunities available within the health and social care sector that meet the regulatory requirements of the General Medical Council (GMC) and the General Dental Council (GDC).

3. I am not aware of being a member of any committees, associations, parties, societies or groups that would have particular reference to the Inquiry's Terms of Reference.
4. I have not provided evidence to, or have been involved in, any other inquiries, investigations or criminal or civil litigation in relation to human immunodeficiency virus ("HIV") and/or hepatitis B virus ("HBV") and/or hepatitis C virus ("HCV") infections and/or variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease ("vCJD") in blood and/or blood products.

Section 2: Training

5. With regard to postgraduate medical education, there are a number of current systems for ensuring that clinicians are kept up to date with new guidelines, guidance and best practice. Doctors in NIMDTA postgraduate training programmes are in placements and following curricula approved by the General Medical Council. These curricula are regularly reviewed nationally to ensure that they remain up to date and relevant to the healthcare needs of the UK population. Trainees will also be alerted to any relevant updated guidelines that are sent to NIMDTA. This can take place through email updates or regional teaching. A trainee's progress through the curriculum is assessed through postgraduate exams, work-place based assessments, educational supervisor reports and an Annual Assessment of Competency Progression (ARCP). Improvements in these processes are under regular review.

6. Educators embed best practice into trainee's practice through the processes of training, supervision, support and assessment. This can be improved by ensuring that educators and doctors in postgraduate training have protected and funded time to focus on educational activities.
7. NIMDTA is not involved in providing training on candour, consent and effective communication to non-clinical senior leaders working in the NHS such as executive directors, chief executives or trustees.

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Section 3: Response to the recommendations of the Psychosocial Expert Group

8. All registered medical practitioners are expected to follow the standards set out by the GMC in Good Medical Practice [WITN7254005]. In addition to fulfilling the curricular expectations of their training programme, doctors in postgraduate training are expected to fulfil these professional expectations. Training on professionalism is delivered in an integrated fashion with other educational activities and is evaluated as part of other assessments. In addition, at the time of ARCP any fitness to practise issues which might cause concern are reviewed by the ARCP panel. A GMC facilitated workshop 'Being a Professional' is a compulsory part of generic skills training for NIMDTA foundation doctors and also available to Specialty trainees. This provides understanding of the professional values, knowledge, skills & behaviours required of all doctors working in the UK.
9. On commencing postgraduate training with NIMDTA, all trainees are required to sign an Educational Agreement which includes reference to their Professional Duty of Candour:

I am aware of the Professional Duty of Candour (acting with honesty and integrity (Good Medical Practice Para 65-71)) and the requirement to be open and honest where I feel there have been failings in care. [WITN7457002]

10. The teaching of effective patient communication is an essential part of the postgraduate medical training provided by NIMDTA. This may be provided through a variety of educational approaches including teaching sessions, supervision and feedback, mentoring and coaching. The educational approach is adapted within training programmes depending on the individual and curricular needs of the trainee. Patient communication is assessed as part of other assessments with a summative assessment regarding trainee progression and professionalism being made at the time of ARCP.

11. Trainees are encouraged to undertake training in equality, diversity and inclusion. Equality, diversity and inclusivity are included within the 'Being a Professional' workshop. This increases trainees' awareness of the ways in which implicit and explicit biases affect interactions with patients and families. Recognised trainers who provide clinical and educational supervision of trainees must undertake equality, diversity and inclusion training and courses are also delivered on unconscious bias.

12. I have no comments to make on the recommendations made, or any recommendations to add to those of the Expert Group listed above in relation to the two questions posed by Sir Brian to the Psychosocial Expert Group.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed GRO-C

Dated 12/12/22