

Witness Name: Dr Jack Whittaker

Statement No.: WITN7512001

Exhibits: N/A

Dated:

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF JOHN ALAN WHITTAKER

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 14 November 2022.

I, John Alan Whittaker, will say as follows: -

Section 1: Introduction

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

- a. Address: GRO-C
- b. DOB: GRO-C 1938
- c. Qualifications
 - i. MB.ChB.(Liverpool) 1962
 - ii. MRCP (London) 1967
 - iii. MD (Liverpool) 1970
 - iv. FRCP (London) 1980
 - v. FRCPath (London) 1982

- 2. Please set out your employment history including the various roles and responsibilities that you have held throughout your career, as well as the dates.**

Senior Posts:

- i. Senior Lecturer in Haematology
(Welsh National School of Medicine) (1971-1980)
- ii. Reader in Haematology (University of Wales) 1980-2003
- iii. Both the above posts were as Hon. Consultant Haematologist to the South Glamorgan Health Authority.
- iv. I retired in 2003.
- v. In the above employment my principal clinical role was the care of patients with Haematological Malignancies. I had no role or contact with Haemophilia patients or with the purchase or use of blood and blood products. These matters were under the sole care and supervision of Professor Arthur Bloom.

Section 2: Decisions and action of the Cardiff Haemophilia Centre

- 3. Please identify senior colleagues at the Cardiff Haemophilia Centre ("the Centre") and their roles and responsibilities during the time that you worked at UHW, insofar as they were involved with the care of patients with bleeding disorders and/or patients infected with hepatitis and/or HIV in consequence of infected blood or blood products.**

From 1971 to 1991 the Department of Haematology had only four senior members with clinical responsibilities.

- i. Professor Alan Jacobs. Head of Department
- ii. Professor Arthur Bloom Professor
- iii. Dr John Whittaker Reader
- iv. Dr Charles Wardrop Senior Lecturer.

These are members of the Department of Haematology. Only Professor Bloom had any part in the care and treatment of Haemophilia patients.

As mentioned earlier, my role was the care and treatment of patients with Haematological malignancy. Professor Jacobs was the administrative Head of Department and Dr Charles Wardrop was responsible for all laboratories except those in the Haemophilia section which were managed by Professor Bloom.

Section 3: The Mail on Sunday

4. Please consider the Mail on Sunday article dated 1 May 1983, with the headline "Hospitals using killer blood" [PRSE0000199]. In her evidence to the Inquiry, Susan Douglas, the journalist who wrote the article, stated that she had spoken to a clinician in Cardiff [WITN4120001, pages 4-9 and INQY1000242, pages 8-30]. She was unable to recall the name of her source. The Inquiry is very alive to the importance of the protection of whistleblowers and press sources, and we specifically refer you to the IBI's Statement of Approach relating to redaction and anonymity and the annexed Restriction Order in this regard. Due to the importance of the issues raised in that article that are directly relevant to the IBI's Terms of Reference, we would be grateful for your confirmation as to whether or not you were the doctor who Ms Douglas spoke to about the risks of blood and blood products.

If you were not the person who provided information to Ms Douglas, do you know which of your colleagues did speak or may have spoken with Ms Douglas?

- a. I have read the submission of Susan Douglas and I refer particularly to paragraphs 19,21,23 and 168 in which she refers to a contact who was Head of the Department of Haematology at Cardiff. This contact was almost certainly Professor Alan Jacobs. Regrettably Professor Jacobs died, and from memory I believe this to have happened in 1990.
- b. I have never met, conversed or corresponded with Susan Douglas and therefore I feel that I can be of no further help in this matter.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed GRO-C _____
Dated 21/01/2023