

Witness Name: Mark Wright
Statement No.: WITN7513001
Exhibits: Nil
Dated: 2 November 2022

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF MARK WRIGHT

I provide this statement in response to the request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 1 November 2022.

I, Dr Mark Wright, will say as follows: -

Section 1: Introduction

1. I am Dr Mark Wright FRCP PhD, Consultant Hepatologist at University Hospital Southampton, Tremona Road, Southampton SO16 6YD.
2. I was Involved in the Care of witness W6966 following her referral in 2019 from her GP.
3. I have been criticised in the inquiry because she was declined compensation by EIBSS. It is asserted that this is somehow related to her BAME status.

Section 2: Responses to criticisms by W6966

4. W6966 was referred to the hepatology service 5.11.19 having found by her GP to have Hepatitis C.
5. She was seen in clinic 3.12.19 and it was determined that she had Genotype 4 HCV with a high viral load and no cirrhosis.
6. We discussed her at our antiviral Multidisciplinary meeting on 15.1.20
7. She was commenced on an 8 week course of "Maviret" on 20.01.20 and successfully cleared her virus.

8. Because of her history of blood transfusion in 1973 I encouraged her submission of a compensation form to EIBSS and completed the form for her.
9. Unfortunately, this was rejected by the EIBSS on the basis of her having Genotype 4 which they felt was most likely contracted outside of the UK rather than by transfusion at the time of her child's delivery.
10. On 20.07.20 I wrote to Mrs W6966 and explained a bit about why EIBSS had rejected her application.
11. On 8.03.21 in response to further enquiry from W6966 I wrote to her and explained that as the material facts of her case had not changed, I did not feel that further application was justified or likely to result in a different outcome.

Section 3: Other Issues

12. It has been asserted that the disappointing outcome for W6966 is somehow related to me stigmatising her based on her BAME status. This is completely unfounded, hurtful, possibly defamatory and unnecessary. The rejection of her claim (submitted by me in good faith on her behalf) was by the EIBSS according to their criteria and judgement.
13. My submissions have been honest and factual and without prejudice.

Statement of Truth

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

GRO-C

MARK WRIGHT

Signed _____

Dated _____ 02.11.2022 _____