

Witness Name: SIMON CRAWFORD
Statement No.: WITN7558001
Exhibits: TBC
Dated: 24 November 2022

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF SIMON CRAWFORD

I provide this statement on behalf of the London North West University Healthcare NHS Trust ("the Trust") in response to the request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 21 October 2022.

I, Simon Crawford, will say as follows: -

Section 1: Introduction

1. My name is Simon Crawford. My date of birth is [GRO-C] 1962 and my professional address is Northwick Park Hospital, Watford Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 3UJ.
2. I am currently Deputy Chief Executive of London North West University Healthcare NHS Trust. I joined the Trust in April 2011 from NHS London having worked within the NHS since 1985 with over 23 years' experience as an executive board member including roles as Chief Financial Officer and Chief Executive at West London Health during the period 2001 to 2009.

Section 2: Response to Criticism by Mrs [GRO-B]

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3. I have read with great care the witness statement provided to the Inquiry by Mrs [GRO-B] dated 4 March 2022 which relates to her late husband, Mr [GRO-B]
[GRO-B]

4. I would like to express my personal sympathy to Mrs [GRO-B] and to her family for the loss of her husband and for all of the suffering that is set out in her statement. On behalf of the Trust I would also like to extend its sympathies as well.
5. In the Rule 13 notification from the Inquiry dated 22 August 2022 our attention is specifically drawn to paragraph 85 of Mrs [GRO-B]'s witness statement. In this paragraph Mrs [GRO-B] states that she has a number of unanswered questions in relation to her husband's death. The two questions that are mentioned in that paragraph are:
 - i. Why was [Mr [GRO-B]] tested for HCV, HAV and HBV in 1996 at Northwick Park without his knowledge?
 - ii. Why was [Mr [GRO-B]] or his family not told the results of this test in 1996, one year before his death in 1997?
6. It was immediately apparent that these questions relate to matters that happened some time ago. Notwithstanding this, the Trust recognised the seriousness of the issues raised and commenced enquiries to see whether any records in relation to Mr [GRO-B] are still available. Regrettably no records in relation to Mr [GRO-B]'s treatment have been located.
7. The relevant records in relation to Mr [GRO-B] appear to relate to blood tests that were carried out around 1996. We have been unable to establish the precise record keeping arrangements that were in place in relation to records created at that time. However, it is apparent that electronic records of blood tests were not maintained. Consequently, manual searches have been conducted on the microfiches retained by the hospital in the hope that records relating to Mr [GRO-B] might be discovered. As I mention above, unfortunately that has not been the case.
8. There is now greater clarity about the retention of medical records. These records are retained and archived in accordance with the Health Records Standard Operating Procedure ("SOP" version 4.0) which has been in operation since 1st November 2017 Under the SOP all health records except those specified are to be retained for a minimum of 8 years after the conclusion of treatment. One of the noted exceptions is for records relating to Blood Transfusion where the SOP provides that these records must be retained for 30 years or 8 years for deceased

patients. The SOP also has provision for a clinician to request a set of case notes to be retained beyond their standard retention period.

9. With regard to the substance of the questions raised by Mrs GRO-B in paragraph 85 of her statement, it follows that I am only able to comment in relation to the procedure that should have been followed rather than on Mr GRO-B's particular case.
10. What I can say is that a patient in Mr GRO-B's situation should not have been tested for HCV, HAV and HBV without his knowledge and consent. That was the position in 1996 and it remains the position now.
11. Similarly, I can confirm that once a patient in Mr GRO-B's circumstances has been tested then they are entitled to be informed of the results of the test. Again, that was the position in 1996 and remains the case today.

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Section 3: Other Issues

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12. I have considered whether I hold any evidence that is relevant to the to the Inquiry's investigation of the matters set out in its Terms of Reference, I do not believe that I hold any such information.

Statement of Truth

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

GRO-C

Signed

Dated _24 November 2022_____