

Witness Name: Simon Crawford

Statement No.: WITN7558002

Exhibits: None.

Dated:

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 22 November 2022.

I, Simon Crawford will say as follows: -

Section 1: Introduction

1. My name is Simon Crawford. My date of birth is 9th December 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 W1134

3. I have read the witness statement provided to the Inquiry by W1134 dated 15 March 2019 which relates to her late son, who very sadly died on 20 December 1999 at the age of twenty five.

4. I would like at the outset of this statement to express my sympathy, and that of the Trust, to W1134 for her loss and for the distress caused to her which she sets out in her statement. I would also like to extend my sympathies to W1134's late son's wife and child and to the rest of his family.
5. W1134 explains in her statement that it has had to be prepared without the benefit of access to all of her late son's medical records. W1134 mentions that she asked for her son's medical records from Northwick Park Hospital but that she was informed that there was no record of him ever having been treated there and that the assumption is that the records relating to him had been destroyed. W1134 contrasts this position to the response from the Royal Free Hospital and Milton Keynes Hospital, both of which provided records.
6. It is apparent from W1134's statement that her late son was treated at Northwick Park Hospital between 1975 and 1989. In preparing this statement I have ensured that further checks be made to see if any records from that period relating to W1134's late son can be located. This has involved the checking of hard copy records and retained microfiches that are maintained off site as well as a further check of the electronic systems. Regrettably, the checks made of both the electronic records and the manual checks of the retained documents and microfiches have not been successful. I am therefore sorry to say that we are unable to provide any additional material by way of medical records in relation to the matters set out in W1134's statement.
7. It is apparent, and I accept that, there was a lack of clarity around the procedures applied for the retention of medical records at the relevant time. However, 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.

Section 3: Other Issues

8. 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'James L.', written in a cursive style.

Signed _____

09/03/2023

Dated _____