

Witness Name: Keith William Hale

Statement No.: WITN7559001

Exhibits No: Nil

Dated: 24 November 2022

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF KEITH WILLIAM HALE

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9(1) and (2) of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 13 July 2022.

I, Keith William Hale, will say as follows: -

Section 1: Introduction

Please set out your name, address, date of birth and any relevant professional qualifications relevant to the role you currently discharge.

1. I am Keith William Hale, 12 Endeavour Square, London E20 1JN. My date of birth is GRO-C 1965.

Please describe, in broad terms, your role and responsibilities at the FCA.

2. I am a Technical Specialist in the FCA's Mortgage Policy team, which forms part of our Supervision, Policy and Competition Division. In this role I take part in analysis and policy development for the regulated mortgage market and share responsibility for the conduct standards set out in our Mortgages and Home Finance rulebook.

Please set out the FCA's membership, past or present, of any committees, associations, parties, societies or groups relevant to the Inquiry's Terms of Reference, including the dates of your membership and the nature of your involvement.

3. To the best of my knowledge there has been no relevant FCA membership.

Please confirm whether the FCA have 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. Please provide details of your involvement and copies of any statements or reports which you provided.

4. To the best of my knowledge the FCA has not provided any evidence to, or been involved in any other inquiries, investigations or criminal or civil litigation in relation to these matters

Section 2: Mortgages

Do FCA guidance, regulations or expectations of best practice, require mortgagees to ensure mortgagors take out life insurance (or other insurances such as mortgage protection insurance) when offering mortgage products?

- a. **If so, does the FCA collect information as to what proportion of mortgage companies require such products to be obtained?**

5. Our rules do not require mortgage providers to ensure that customers have appropriate life insurance (or other insurances such as mortgage protection insurance) in place.

Are there any compulsory insurance or other policies that a mortgagor entering into a mortgage has to have in place? Please give details.

6. Our rules do not require any compulsory insurance or other policies to be held by the mortgage holder when entering into a mortgage.

7. In certain circumstances a compulsory insurance known as a Higher Lending Charge or a Mortgage Indemnity Guarantee may be required by some lenders. This is a policy designed to protect a lender's interests when lending at a high loan-to-value. Where such insurance is required our rules specify how details of the existence and cost of the policy should be included in prescribed disclosure.

What insurance or other policies do mortgagees, as a matter of practice, require mortgagors to have in place when offering a mortgage? Please give details.

8. It is standard practice for lenders to require that mortgagors take out appropriate buildings insurance. Our rules do not require such insurance to be taken out, but where it is being provided as part of the mortgage offer details must be included in the disclosure we prescribe.

What impact, if any, would the fact that a mortgagor has a virus such as HCV or HIV, have on their prospects of being offered a mortgage or the rate at which that mortgage could be secured?

9. I have no knowledge about the potential impact of a customer having a virus such as HCV or HIV on their access to mortgage deals or the rates offered. Our rules do not set out the eligibility criteria that firms should adopt, and that includes the existence of health factors.

Section 3: Insurance

10. The four questions in the Insurance section of the request for a written statement are being addressed by the written statement of Matthew Brewis (FCA) (W7560).

Statement of Truth

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

Signed:

GRO-C

Dated: 24 November 2022