

Witness Name: Matthew Fagg

Statement No.: **WITN7658001**

Exhibits: **WITN7658002**

Dated: 13 February 2023

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF MATTHEW FAGG

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 17 November 2022.

I, Matthew Fagg, will say as follows:

Section 1: Introduction

1. I am Matthew Fagg (dob GRO-C1977) Director of Prevention, NHS England, Quarry House, Quarry Hill, Leeds, LS2 7UE
2. I make this statement to respond to the questions raised by the Infected Blood Inquiry (IBI) via a Rule 9 request dated 3 January 2023 sent to Professor Sir Stephen Powis but which I am answering on behalf of NHS England.

Question 2 - Please set out your employment history with dates, if possible, including the various roles and responsibilities you have held throughout your career.

3. I was an employee of the Department of Health from September 2000 until March 2013 and I have subsequently been employed by NHS England since 2013 in a variety of roles. I am currently Director of Prevention for NHS England.

Question 3 - Please set out your 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.

4. Not applicable.

Question 4 - Please confirm whether you have provided evidence or have been involved in any other inquiries, investigations, 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.

5. I confirm that I have not been involved in any such inquiries, investigations or litigation.

Question 5 – In an article on the NHS website (RLIT0001936), dated 30 November 2022, it is stated that "in April 2022, the NHS made £20 million available over three years to implement routing HIV opt out testing within 33 hospital Emergency Departments, in areas with the highest rates of diagnosed HIV"¹ and that "Hepatitis B and C will also be checked as part of the combined blood borne virus testing approach". Please would you confirm whether NHS England are collecting data from these patients with regards to the likely cause of HIV, HBV or HCV infection. If so, please explain the process by which risk factors for an infection are recorded and whether any infections attributed to NHS blood transfusions and blood products have been identified among this cohort of patients.

6. I can confirm that NHS England is not centrally collecting information about the likely cause of their infection. However, I suspect that some local areas will collect that as part of follow on care. I also note that UKHSA reports on HIV diagnoses on a national basis and their report appears to include some information on numbers of people diagnosed following exposure to blood products (see figure 6) of the report entitled "HIV testing, PrEP, new HIV diagnoses, and care outcomes for people accessing HIV services: 2022 report".

Section 2: Other Matters

Question 6 – *Please provide any further comments that you wish to provide about matters which relate to the above material.*

7. I have nothing further to add.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

GRO-C

Dated 13/02/2023

Exhibit table

Description	Exhibit number
HIV: annual data tables provided by the UK Health Security Agency and updated on 1 December 2022	WITN7658002