

Witness Name: Dr Mary Mathias and

Mr Matthew Shaw

Statement No.: WITN7696001

Exhibits: Nil

Dated: 27 June 2023

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF DR MARY MATHIAS AND MR MATTHEW SHAW

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 12 April 2023.

I, Mary Mathias on behalf of Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust, will say as follows: -

Section 1: Introduction

1. My name is Mary Mathias. My professional address is Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust, Great Ormond Street, London, WC1N 3JH. My date of birth is GRO-C 1971. My professional qualifications are MA, MBBS, MRCP, FRCPath, MD.
2. My current role at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust ("GOSH") is as Consultant Haematologist specialising in inherited bleeding disorders. I am the Haemophilia Centre Director.
3. I make this statement on behalf of GOSH in response to the criticisms made by W0282 in her statement dated 8 February 2019. In preparing this statement I have reviewed the medical records of W0282's son.

Section 2: Response to Criticism of witness W0282

4. At paragraphs 22 to 24 and paragraph 35 of her statement, W0282 states that the medical staff at GOSH did not listen to her request that her son was not to be treated with products from the United States or Factor VIII.
5. We acknowledge that the standard of record keeping in the 1970s and 1980s was significantly different, and poor in comparison, with contemporary standards. There is unfortunately no evidence within W0282's son's records of any requests from W0282 to medical staff for her son not be treated with products from the United States or Factor VIII. There is evidence that W0282's son had very numerous exposures to Factor VIII from 1979 onwards when Cryoprecipitate was not available, or when it was provided to the family to give to W0282's son when they were travelling abroad because it was easier to store and administer. In almost all of the notes entries which specify the brand of Factor VIII given to W0282's son, this is stated as Lister, which was manufactured from British plasma. On many occasions the manufacturer was not stated. On 14/06/1980, 02/11/1982, 18/11/1982 and 03/12/1982 the factor was stated as Armour which was a US product. On 25/05/1982 there is a note stating that W0282's son received Elstree Factor VIII 'as there is no Lister'.
6. At paragraphs 31 and 32 of her statement, W0282 notes that Professor Hardisty stated that he was unaware of the risk of factor products and told the family that there were no risks. W0282 states that she was told that all the children receiving care at Great Ormond Street Hospital were tested and that her son was the only child who did not show signs of the HIV virus. She notes that neither she, nor her husband, consented to their son being tested.
7. There is unfortunately no evidence within W0282's son's records of any discussions about risk between Professor Hardisty and W0282. Professor Hardisty is now dead and we cannot know what he knew at the time or what he told the family. The level of detailed note keeping at this time in the 1970s and 1980s will have been poor in comparison with contemporary standards, and determining from our records what was said when and by whom is impossible

in the absence of the clinician. There is no record of consent for HIV testing in W0282's son's records. In 2023 we recognise this as entirely unacceptable and apologise unreservedly. The only evidence from W0282's son's notes of HIV testing is one hand-written comment on a laboratory request on 03/06/1985 for a coagulation screen and FVIII level which has been annotated at the top with 'HTLV IV neg'. This was likely to represent one of the earliest forms of HIV testing.

8. The documents submitted by W0282 to the Inquiry (WITN0282012, WITN0282013 and WITN0282014) are relevant to W0282's son's care at GOSH. They are a copy of a letter to the Guardian Newspaper, a copy of a response in the same paper from Professor Hardisty and a subsequent letter to Professor Hardisty from W0282. The content is evidence of W0282's concerns about the plasma source of W0282's son's Factor VIII at that time and the apparent discrepancy between what she understood from the clinical team at GOSH at that time and what Professor Hardisty expressed to be his understanding of the situation relating to HIV and the relative safety of US and UK plasma in 1985. These documents were not held within W0282's son's hospital notes.
9. At paragraphs 36 and 37 of her statement, W0282 states that the medical staff at Great Ormond Street Hospital refused to hand over her son's medical notes and in the end a nurse handed them over to her in the street.
10. She states that the notes recorded 'neurotic mother'. She states that she did not photocopy the notes and has since managed to obtain her son's records, she notes that the 'neurotic mother' entry has since been removed.
11. It should be explained that at this time patients and families were not entitled to access their medical records and both record keeping and the requirements surrounding retention and storage of records were very different from those of today. This alleged incident occurred in 1985 when W0282's son's parents asked for his care to be transferred to the Royal Free Hospital. After such a long passage of time it is not possible to investigate these allegations as no

record of any requests survive and the original records have been saved to film and then the paper records destroyed some time ago. The words "neurotic mother" do not appear in the microfiched records.

12. In investigating the allegations raised by W0282 the Trust only has the patient's microfiche records to consult. There are no known electronic databases or records from that period other than the patient hospital records. A search of GOSH archives was, as the Inquiry has previously been made aware, undertaken in March 2020 but all documents found in this search post date this patient's time with GOSH.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

GRO-C

Dated 23 June 2023

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

GRO-C

Dated

27/6/23