

Witness Name: Dr Melinda Hamilton

Statement No.: WITN7698001

Exhibits:

Dated: 6/12/2023

## INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

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### WRITTEN STATEMENT OF MELINDA HAMILTON

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

I, Melinda Hamilton, will say as follows: -

#### **Section 1: Introduction**

1. My name is Melinda Hamilton, date of birth GRO-C1972. My home address is GRO-C  
GRO-C
2. My qualifications are MBChB, MRCPCH, FRCPATH, MD, PGCME
3. I was employed at Ysbyty Gwynedd Hospital as a Consultant Haematologist between January 2008 and December 2016. During this time, I provided care for all haematology patients, including those with inherited bleeding disorders.

#### **Section 2: Responses to criticism by W4099**

4. This statement is made following a Notification of criticism made by a witness with Inquiry reference number W4099 in relation to her treatment at Ysbyty Gwynedd Hospital between 1993 and 2009 as laid down in the Rule 13 Notification sent to me on 15 March 2023.
5. In paragraph 220, page 45 of the Witness Statement WITN4099001, witness W4099 states that 'I don't believe the Haematologist Dr Hamilton was being honest with me'.

6. This is a long and complex case, with a large volume of case notes.
7. Witness W4099 was diagnosed with mild factor XI deficiency in 1993. As a result, she received factor XI replacement with plasma derived concentrate prior to dental and surgical procedures in 1994-95 to mitigate against any potential bleeding complications.
8. My first involvement with witness W4099 came when a standard vCJD notification letter was sent to her in my name dated 29 June 2009. Witness W4099 was potentially at risk of contracting vCJD due to having been given potentially contaminated factor XI replacement plasma derived blood products prior to my involvement with her treatment.
9. Questions arose regarding the historical diagnosis of mild factor XI deficiency. It appears that in 1993 blood tests revealed that the witness's blood levels were borderline low and subsequent levels in 1999, 2003 and 2009 were borderline -normal. The view was that this condition is unpredictable, and it was not possible to exclude mild deficiency.
10. In 2009, I thoroughly reviewed and investigated this case and am providing this response based on my recall of events during that time. I spent a considerable amount of time discussing and explaining to witness W4099 about her diagnosis and treatment but could see and understand that she was distressed and upset. She was referred for psychological support and my recollection is that follow up letters, documenting our discussions, were provided to the witness. I have not been able to check this as I currently do not have access to the witness's medical records. I also recall that the witness was referred to the Prion Clinic for support.
11. Witness W4099 was offered an independent review of her case, and subsequently there was a review by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales. Contained in exhibit WITN4099002 is a copy of the report, which witness W4099 has seen, from the Independent Complaints Secretariat from December 2010. I do not feel that I can improve on the historical analysis or conclusions of these reports. I will therefore not comment in any more detail circumstances of witness W4099's criticisms save that I absolutely deny that there was any dishonesty or cover-up of events by me. My documented involvement in the investigation into the witness's complaint about her diagnosis and treatment (both of which were substantially before I was employed at

the Trust) support that my investigation was not dishonest.

12. Following my investigation, I have had no further involvement with the witness or her care. I am sorry to hear that she still has concerns and unanswered questions.

**Section 3: Other Issues**

13. I have no further issues that I wish to bring to the attention of the Inquiry.

**Statement of Truth**

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

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  

DocuSigned by:  
**GRO-C: Melinda  
Hamilton**

Dated 6/12/2023