

Witness Name: Paul Cannon
Statement No.: WITN7719001
Exhibits: None.
Dated: 24/08/2023

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF PAUL CANNON

I provide this statement on behalf of NHS Lanarkshire in response to the request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 16 August 2022.

I, Paul Cannon, will say as follows: -

Section 1: Introduction

Introductory paragraph to include your date of birth, address, occupation and employment history.

1.	Name	Paul Cannon
	Address	NHS Lanarkshire, Kirklands Fallside Road Bothwell G71 8BB
	DoB	<div>GRO-C</div> 1964
	Occupation	Board Secretary, NHS Lanarkshire (since September 2017)
	Employment	Worked in the NHS for in various corporate and operational roles for 37 years

Please set out your current role at the Board and your responsibilities in that role.

2. My current role is as Board Secretary for NHS Lanarkshire.

Please set out the position of your organisation in relation to the hospital/other institution criticised by the witnesses (for example ‘NHS ABC Health Board (“the Board”) operates from Hospital X and Hospital Y formerly Hospital Z’).

3. NHS Lanarkshire is responsible for healthcare provision for the population of the Lanarkshire area.

Section 2: Response to Criticisms by W3752

The criticisms I have been asked to address are:

Paragraph 6

During this second pregnancy I attended the hospital to provide routine blood tests. About one month after undergoing these routine tests, I was contacted by the hospital and advised that there was an “anomaly” in my blood. I was not clear what it was and how this had occurred. I found out later on that it had come from the blood transfusion, but this information was not immediately obvious to me. My blood had been fine when I had been pregnant with my first child [witnesss W3752’s son], so it was clear where this “anomaly” had come from. I was advised that there was something in my blood, with no clear information about what it was. The doctors admitted nothing and the lack of explanation was quite scary.

Paragraph 9

I should have been told straight away when this “anomaly” was spotted in my blood and provided with full information to understand the situation. There was never any sort of discussion about any risks posed to my children. I can’t remember the exact phrases that were used during these conversations, but I can remember that I found these conversations scary and the impression that I was left with, was that I had something that I could die from. The only other information I was given was that I

would have to advise dentists and doctors in the future that there was something in my blood, so they could take the necessary precautions.

4. Unfortunately, the medical records are no longer available for us to check, as these were destroyed under our Records Management Policy. It therefore has not been possible to review these, or share them with a Consultant to seek a contemporary view of the circumstances relating to these statements.
5. However, we can only offer our apologies if the communication with the patient was such that they were left unsure of the issues at hand. This does not reflect our current practices whereby clinical staff take great care to ensure that patients understand their diagnosis, often backed up by a leaflet or other resources to ensure that the patient fully understands the message being delivered by the Consultant.

Section 3: Other Issues

6. None.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

GRO-C

Dated

24/08/2023