

Witness Name: Aaron Cummins

Statement No.: WITN7720001

Exhibits: None

Dated: 28 July 2023

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF AARON CUMMINS

I provide this statement on behalf of University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust in response to the request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 14 July 2023.

I, Aaron Cummins, will say as follows: -

Section 1: Introduction

1. My name is Aaron Cummins. I was born on 11th March 1976 and I am the Chief Executive Officer of University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust, based at Westmorland General Hospital, Burton Road, Kendal, LA9 7RG.
2. I joined the NHS as a National Graduate Trainee in 2000 and held a number of management positions in the finance function before being appointed as Director of Finance at Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital NHS Foundation Trust in 2008 and Director of Finance/Deputy Chief Executive of Mid-Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust in 2012. I joined University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust in 2014, as the Deputy Chief Executive & Director of Finance, and became Chief Executive in 2018.

Section 2: Response to Criticism by Witness W4282

3. University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust recognises the lived experience of witness W4282 in using our services in 2012 - 2013. As witness W4282's statement reflects, an apology has been offered previously, and it is acknowledged that we could have interacted better at the time. However, we would like to reiterate that apology here and offer to meet with witness W4282, to offer assurance that we have listened to her experience.
4. In the past decade, the Trust has made improvements in the culture in the organisation, including more effective communication with patients, such as joint decision making around treatment plans.
5. We apologise once again to witness W4282 that her voice was not heard by us at the time and invite witness W4282 to meet with Richard Sachs, our Director of Governance, (via richard.sachs@mbht.nhs.uk) to discuss further, if that would be helpful.
6. The members of staff involved in these events have been de-briefed in line with our commitment to learning.

Statement of Truth

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



Signed Aaron Cummins

Dated 28 July 2023