

Witness Name: Richard Angell

Statement No.: WITN7724001

Exhibits: WITN7724002

Dated: 30 August 2023

## **INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY**

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### **WRITTEN STATEMENT OF RICHARD ANGELL ON BEHALF OF THE TERRENCE HIGGINS TRUST**

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I provide this statement on behalf of the Terrence Higgins Trust in response to the request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 19 July 2023.

I, Richard Angell, will say as follows: -

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

1. My name is Richard Angell (DOB GRO-c 1984), Chief Executive, Terrence Higgins Trust. My work address is 437 Caledonian Road, London, N7 9BG, United Kingdom. I hold a Bachelor of Science degree and have worked in the HIV sector for three years.
2. Terrence Higgins Trust ("THT") is the UK's leading HIV and sexual health charity focusing on HIV prevention, enabling people to live well with HIV and to amplify the voices of people living with or affected by the virus.
3. In this statement I refer to the Macfarlane Trust as the "MFT" and to Terrence Higgins Trust as "THT". The former MFT beneficiaries are also referred to in this statement as the "Macfarlane Community".

## **Section 2: Response to Criticisms by W1589**

4. I have reviewed the criticisms made by witness W1589 in her statement dated 27 April 2022. I have no doubt that the criticisms made against THT are heartfelt and were made in good faith. At the same time I believe that the criticisms are unjustified and that they present an inaccurate and incomplete picture of a number of the steps taken by THT to support the former MFT beneficiaries since the MFT residual funds were transferred to THT at the end of 2018 under a Deed of Gift.
5. In her statement, W1589 sets out three main areas of complaint: (1) that THT didn't know the identities of the MFT beneficiaries from the outset and therefore could not properly support them; (2) that THT, notwithstanding the existence of the User Group first set up in 2020, failed to adopt and live by its stated principles of co-production and consultation with the MFT beneficiaries; and (3) that THT was not fit to manage the MFT funds for the benefit of the MFT beneficiaries and that the remaining funds should be transferred from THT to the Haemophilia Societies.
6. I respond to each area of complaint as follows.

### **(1) That THT didn't know the identities of the MFT beneficiaries from the outset and therefore could not properly support them.**

7. W1589 is correct in stating that THT was not provided with the identity of the MFT beneficiaries at the time the MFT residual funds were transferred to THT. As the Inquiry has heard on a number of occasions, the MFT did not have an exhaustive list of its beneficiaries. Of those they did have, I believe that for data protection reasons MFT could not provide THT with the names and/or contact details of the beneficiaries without their specific consent. This would have been true of any legacy provider.
8. Initially, THT made contact with a limited number of beneficiaries through word of mouth and at the same time a number of beneficiaries contacted THT. The Skipton Fund, as the custodian of MFT registrants' personal information, then wrote to all those whose contact details they held, inviting them to contact THT directly. An example of the letter, dated 25 November 2019, is attached as Exhibit [WITN7724002]. Following that communication, THT received 170+ responses.
9. Since that initial request for MFT beneficiaries to contact THT, THT has been approached by a number of other individuals who were either not registered with the

MFT but were entitled to be, or whose contact details had changed from those held by the Skipton Fund.

10. THT continued, and continues today, to make contact with beneficiaries to the greatest extent possible, for example by posting information about events and services via our own social media and the social media of those grassroots campaign groups which have engaged with THT.
11. A number of beneficiaries have got in touch with THT through our dedicated website: [www.tht.org.uk/macfarlane/](http://www.tht.org.uk/macfarlane/).
12. By the end of 2021, the number of names on THT's database had increased to approximately 200.

**(2) That THT, notwithstanding the existence of the User Group first set up in 2020, failed to adopt and live by its stated principles of co-production and consultation with the MFT beneficiaries.**

13. In 2020, THT established an advisory group ('beneficiary user group'), made up of a number of former Macfarlane Trust beneficiaries. The beneficiary user group set out the initial work programme and created the staff structure for this work (that still exists today). Consistent with the principles of co-production W1589 was fully involved in the decision-making regarding staffing and was involved in the interview process. Unfortunately, the advisory group structure did not work particularly well with only two former Macfarlane Trust beneficiaries attending on a regular basis, of whom one was W1589. Both of those former Macfarlane Trust beneficiaries eventually resigned from the group.
14. In May 2021, three consultative structures were introduced. First, the Macfarlane Conversation, which runs meetings, typically with an external speaker, to consider and discuss matters of interest to beneficiaries. Attendees have included Wes Streeting MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Health & Social Care, and Brian O'Mahony, Chief Executive of the Irish Haemophilia Society. Second, a Services Panel, which considers the services being provided to beneficiaries by THT. And third an Advocacy and Public Affairs Panel, which considers matters which may need to be raised with politicians, governmental bodies and the Inquiry. All former Macfarlane Trust beneficiaries are welcome to attend these meetings which are informal in nature. The meetings are advertised to all the Macfarlane Community who have

given us permission to contact them. Each member of the Macfarlane Community who wishes to attend can join and participate in any panel at any point.

15. When we set up this process for consultation, we envisaged that these groups would meet every 6 weeks. In practice they have met when necessary. Sometimes, such as when we are producing the submission for Sir Robert Francis KC, the Advocacy and Public Affairs Panel met every few weeks and at other times the panels have met less frequently.
16. Beneficiaries, including W1589, have been provided with the following description for each of the panels.

Services Panel:

As a member of a panel, you can expect respect and for your opinions to be listened to. Your opinions will form part of the development of the service but other views from those both inside THT and outside organisations with specialist knowledge will also form part of the services development process. We will always keep you informed of progress in service development at the key milestones for delivery.

Public Affairs and Advocacy Panel

This panel is an opportunity for service users to consult with THT on the details of this work and to share their experience to add value to the work we do. Public Affairs and Advocacy work will primarily be aimed at the Infected Blood Inquiry, the study into the compensation framework and the infected blood support schemes. We will work with other third sector groups and campaign groups on infected blood to achieve success. Through working together we can achieve the best outcomes for all of the Macfarlane Community.

17. Both panels are informal and consultative and not decision-making bodies.

**(3) That THT was not fit to manage the MFT funds for the benefit of the MFT beneficiaries and that the remaining funds should be transferred from THT to the Haemophilia Societies.**

18. By way of response to this criticism I refer the Inquiry to Ian Green's letter to Kate Burt dated 21 December 2021, itself referenced by W1589 as Exhibit **WITN1589026**. In this letter Ian Green describes, as at that date, the ongoing efforts to expand THT's approach to engagement; how resources had been utilised in support of the

beneficiaries; and how the focus on policy and advocacy was supported by the then User Group which had assisted with designing the staffing structure, was involved with interviewing and setting policy priorities and which, in response to a survey of Macfarlane Community members, had the support of a significant majority of responding beneficiaries.

19. It is also important to note that since the legal transfer was agreed, the funds became THT's to be utilised in accordance with the MFT objectives as described in the Deed of Gift. All spending has been audited in line with the Deed of Gift. Funds have been used for Macfarlane Community members to support trauma counselling, group peer support, one-to-one casework and advocacy around the Inquiry and Parliamentary debates on Sir Brian Langstaff's recommendations.
20. In summary, I believe that the points made by Ian Green in his letter dated December 2021 clearly illustrate the dedicated and professional manner in which THT had conducted itself in the interests of the MFT beneficiaries during the period covered by W1589 in her statement, all subject to and consistent with the provisions of the Deed of Gift.
21. In his letter Ian Green also states that, following legal advice, THT was not empowered under the Deed of Gift to transfer the remaining funds to another organisation.
22. In addition, The Haemophilia Society have communicated to THT that even if it were legal, they would not wish to administer the MFT residual funds.

### **Section 3: Other Issues**

23. THT is aware of the negative view of THT held by a number of former MFT beneficiaries. This saddens us greatly and highlights again the unnecessary divisions that continue amongst those impacted by the infected blood scandal. As a result, independent mediation between THT and the Macfarlane Community and Haemophilia societies concerning the working relationship between the parties and how best to use the available funds for the benefit of the Macfarlane Community consistent with the Deed of Gift was offered by Ian Green and again, more recently, in writing by me but this offer has been rejected by individuals and groups, including by W1589. The offer remains open.

**Statement of Truth**

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

Signed : 

**GRO-C**

Dated : 30 August 2023

**TABLE OF EXHIBITS**

Date	Notes/ Description	Exhibit number
25 Nov 2019	Tim Waldron Letter	WITN7724002