

Witness Name: R Liesner (on behalf of  
Great Ormond Street Hospital for  
Children NHS Foundation Trust)  
Statement No.: WITN3774001  
Exhibits: WITN3774002  
Dated: 17<sup>th</sup> October 2019

## INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

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### WRITTEN STATEMENT OF RAINA JOAN LIESNER

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I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 23 September 2019.

I, Dr Raina Joan Liesner, on behalf of Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust, will say as follows: -

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

1. My name is Dr Raina Joan Liesner. 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 1958. My professional qualifications are MA MBBChir MD FRCP FRCPATH.
2. My current role at Great Ormond Street Hospital NHS Foundation Trust ("GOSH") is as a consultant paediatric haematologist and director of the Haemophilia Comprehensive Care Centre. My responsibilities in those roles are to lead the haemophilia team in the care of children with haemophilia and other bleeding disorders.
3. I make this statement on behalf of GOSH in response to the criticisms made by Mrs Nicola Jones (witness W1756), in her statement dated 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2018. In preparing this statement I have reviewed the medical records of both Jake Jones and

Keira Jones held by GOSH, following consent being given by Mrs Jones (witness W1756), their mother.

## **Section 2: Response to Criticism of witness W1756**

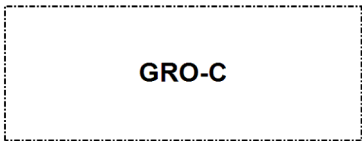
4. In paragraph 50 of her statement Mrs Jones (witness W1756) says that upon reviewing a travel letter she had requested from GOSH in 2013, *"I saw that my son had been tested for HIV and Hepatitis, I was shocked to discover this as I had never consented to (or indeed been asked to consent to) such testing."* In paragraph 52 she goes on to say: *"I then also discovered that my daughter had had similar testing without consent since birth."* In paragraph 53 Mrs Jones (witness W1756) states: *"I have only ever been informed of The Royal Free (where they were initial [sic] treated) and Great Ormond Street taking blood to check my children's' [sic] kidney function, for platelet disorder and on one occasion for inhibitors. These are the only tests at Great Ormond Street that I was informed about and consented to."*
5. In 2006 the care of approximately 40 children was transferred from the Royal Free Hospital to GOSH as the Royal Free Hospital was no longer able to provide paediatric services for young children with bleeding disorders. Keira and Jake Jones were two of the patients that were transferred to be looked after by GOSH as part of that move. I cannot comment in relation to matters that may have occurred from birth until the children became patients at GOSH.
6. In 2006 it was routine, in line with internationally accepted practice, to do a viral screening panel (Hepatitis A, B and C and HIV) in children who might potentially need to receive blood or blood products in their life-time as a result of a bleeding disorder and to vaccinate where a vaccine was available and indicated. Vaccination against hepatitis A and B was offered to all potentially at-risk children at that time, in line with the 2003 UKHCDO guidance.
7. Keira and Jake Jones were first seen at GOSH by me and the haemophilia team in clinic on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2006. They were then 4 years old and 2 years old respectively. Baseline diagnostic bloods were taken from both children and they were tested for both HIV and hepatitis as part of our routine viral screening panel; the tests came back negative.
8. More than 13 years after that clinic appointment I have no personal recollection of the encounter. The usual practice at that time was for me or the nursing specialists to

seek verbal consent for our viral screening tests. On that occasion unfortunately verbal consent was not documented by me or others as having been taken. Given the passage of time I cannot therefore say with certainty that consent was obtained on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2006 from Mrs Jones (witness W1756) for her children's blood to be tested. If I did not seek verbal consent for virology testing for Keira or Jake I can only apologise.

9. On 14<sup>th</sup> February 2007 Mrs Jones (witness W1756) gave written consent for Jake to be tested for factor VIII genetics. A copy of the consent form signed by Mrs Jones (witness W1756) is exhibited as **[WITN3774002]**.
  
10. On 8<sup>th</sup> February 2008 Jake had a further viral screen, including both HIV and hepatitis, as following the initial test results in 2006 he had been vaccinated against Hepatitis A and B (in line with the national guidance at that time ). The 2008 tests showed that Jake had responded well to these vaccines.
  
11. In 2013 Mrs Jones (witness W1756) asked GOSH to write what is known as a "travel letter". Travel letters are written "to whom it may concern" to cover trips outside the UK to help with any queries at Customs in relation to the need of these families to carry needles and associated medication. At that time it was standard practice to include details of virological testing in case this was relevant in an emergency situation abroad.

### **Statement of Truth**

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

Signed  \_\_\_\_\_

Dated 17/10/2019 \_\_\_\_\_

### **Table of exhibits:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Notes/ Description</b>	<b>Exhibit number</b>
14.02.07	Consent form for factor VIII genetic testing of Jake Jones	WITN3774002

