

PENROSE INQUIRY
WITNESS STATEMENT
DR J GILLON
Date of Birth 24 April 1949

Penrose Inquiry – request for statistics relating to Transfusion Transmitted HIV

Preamble

In responding to the issues to be included in this statement, I have sourced information from colleagues at Health Protection Scotland (HPS) as well as colleagues in the Regional Transfusion Centres across Scotland. Some of the information included in this statement was included in the SNBTS paper on Lookback, which was sent to the Inquiry in 2010.

1. The number of patients treated by the NHS in Scotland who contracted HIV as a result of a blood transfusion.

In total, 18 patients are known to SNBTS and HPS to have contracted HIV as a result of a blood transfusion in Scotland. 10 of these patients were identified through the “targeted lookback” by SNBTS. 8 patients were reported by their clinicians as possible transfusion-transmitted infections. In 4 of these cases a blood donor was identified as the probable source of the infection. In 3 of the remaining 4 the evidence for transfusion transmission was circumstantial, e.g. transfusion occurred before testing for HIV began, no archive sample existed, and the patient had no other likely source of infection.

The remaining case was reported to HPS by clinical staff in the Western Infirmary, Glasgow, but is not known to SNBTS.

2. The date of the transfusion which resulted in each patient contracting HIV.

No date of transfusion can be established for 3 patients, each of whom had more than one transfusion episode from multiple donors, with no archive samples to allow identification of an infective donation. One of these 3 was the patient who has not been reported to SNBTS for

SNBTS DOCUMENT REQUEST No:

2011/00062

investigation (information held by HPS does not allow identification of the patient).

The most accurate available information on date of transfusion, sourced from records of Lookback investigations, for the remaining 15 patients is shown in Appendix 1. The earliest was in August 1983, the latest in August 1986. 3 occurred in 1983, 9 in 1984, 1 in 1985, and 2 in 1986.

3. The number of patients referred to in 1 above who were under 16 years of age when the transfusion took place.

4 of the patients were under 16 at the time of transfusion. In addition, 1 of the patients with no confirmed date of transfusion was likely to have been under 16 at the time of exposure, based on information held by HPS.

4. The health board area in which each transfusion referred to in 1 above took place.

Information held by the SNBTS and HPS indicates that 8 patients were transfused in Lothian, 6 in Greater Glasgow, 3 in Tayside and 1 in Lanarkshire.

5. The blood transfusion service region within which the blood for each transfusion was collected.

Of the 14 patients with an established source of infection, 7 received blood from the Edinburgh and South East Scotland Region, 4 from Glasgow and West of Scotland, and 3 from East of Scotland (Dundee).

If it is assumed that the other 4 patients received blood collected in the region in which the transfusion took place, as it is highly likely, the sources of the infective donations for all 18 patients would be as follows:

Edinburgh – South East	8
Glasgow – West	7
East (Dundee)	3

6. The number of patients referred to in 1 above who have died of HIV/AIDS.

SNBTS has no information on mortality or cause of death. HPS, however, routinely receive reports on deaths among HIV-infected individuals from the Registrar General (Scotland) Office, from attending clinicians, and via regular linkage exercises with the Scottish national deaths register.

Of the 18 known cases, I am aware from the above sources that 15 are known to have died (as at 31 December 2010).

7. The number of partners of those patients referred to in 1 above who contracted HIV.

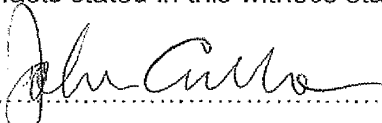
SNBTS did not systematically collect data on spouses or partners of these patients.

8. The number of persons referred to in 7 above who have died of HIV/AIDS.

In view of the answer to Q7, SNBTS is unable to provide an answer to this question.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed.....

Dated..... 31 January 2011

PENROSE REQUEST FOR DATA (HIV)**APPENDIX 1: Transfusion Transmitted HIV identified by clinician reports****- Dates of Transfusion**

Patient	Date of Transfusion
1	13 August 1983
2.	1983 or 1981
3.	April 1984
4.	March 1984
5.	November 1984
6.	11 January 1984
7.	31 December 1983
8.	January 1984
9.	1984
10.	9 June 1984
11.	August 1986
12.	Before June 1984
13.	"early" 1984
14.	25 April 1984
15.	September 1984
16.	September 1985
17.	30 October 1984
18.	August 1986