

STATEMENT OF PROFESSOR DAVID GOLDBERG

Penrose Inquiry – Statistics – known cases of transfusion transmitted Hepatitis C infection

Question 1

The number of patients treated by the NHS in Scotland known to have contracted Hepatitis C as a result of a blood transfusion.

HPS is aware of 304 individuals known to be HCV antibody positive in Scotland for whom information indicated that a blood transfusion received may have resulted in the acquisition of Hepatitis C infection. This figure excludes individuals for whom available information indicated a blood transfusion was received outside Scotland and it also excludes a small number of other individuals who were also known to have injected drugs. As indicated in the HPS notes attached, blood transfusion should only be regarded as a possible, and not a definite or confirmed, route of acquisition for these cases.

Question 2

The date of the transfusion which resulted in each patient contracting Hepatitis C.

This information is unavailable. As indicated above, HPS does not seek to ascertain, through further investigation, whether or not HCV infection was actually acquired through the receipt of the transfusion.

Question 3

The Blood Transfusion Service Region within which the blood for each transfusion was collected.

This information is unavailable. However, in Table 1, the NHS Board of the HCV antibody positive person's residence, and where this is not known, the NHS Board of the source of the diagnostic blood specimen (i.e. the NHS Board in which the blood was taken), is provided.

Question 4

The number of transfusion patients known to have contracted Hepatitis C as a result of blood transfusion who are still alive.

As you can see from the Table, 219 of the 304 were not known to be dead as at December 2009.

Question 5

The number of transfusion patients known to have contracted Hepatitis C as a result of a blood transfusion who have died of Hepatitis C or whose death was materially contributed to by Hepatitis C.

As at December 2009, 85 of the 304 cases were known to have died. Of these, 18 had a primary liver-related cause of death recorded on their death certificate and 13 had a secondary liver-related cause of death recorded; it is not possible to conclude from this information alone if Hepatitis C materially contributed to death in these instances.