

PENROSE INQUIRY

Dear Mr Evans,

Thank you for your letter of the 19th November. I hope that the Inquiry will appreciate that with the passage of more than 25 years, my recollection of the chronology of events is somewhat hazy. I reply to the queries raised as best as possible.

- I cannot recall with any accuracy whether or not I made the statement referred to. I also cannot recall when I first saw a patient with presumed HIV infection, i.e. HIV which had not progressed to AIDS (probably generalised lymph node enlargement - a recognised feature of the infection). I think it was likely to have been early to mid 1983.
- I do not think that I diagnosed the first Scottish patient with an AIDS-defining illness. If I remember correctly it was not until sometime in 1984 that I diagnosed a patient with an actual AIDS related illness – a man who had sex with men in the United Kingdom. The statement quoted in *Gay News* reflected a conversation that I had had at a meeting in London with a Genitourinary Medicine colleague who was diagnosing persons with AIDS at his clinic which had a large homosexual clientele. It was he who told me that it was likely that Scottish doctors would soon be making such diagnoses.
- I cannot recollect when I first new about the death of the Glasgow patient, or as to how I learned of this individual's case.
- If I recollect correctly, there were two or three meetings between members of the SNBTS (certainly Dr McLelland) and members of SHRG (Mr Derek Ogg) to discuss how best to dissuade men who had sex with men donating blood. I do not recall, however, discussions about possible research projects.
- In the early 1980s before the virus was identified, homosexual men were known to be at risk of AIDS. BTS staff wished to identify likely infected individuals and there was anxiety to find surrogate markers for HIV. Hence there was liaison between Genitourinary Medicine physicians and BTS staff on this issue. One possible marker was the detection of hepatitis B antibodies in donated blood (numerous reports had shown that there was a high prevalence of hepatitis B markers in the sera of men who had sex with men attending Genitourinary Medicine clinics).
Genitourinary Medicine clinics distributed leaflets from BTS regarding blood donations and men who have sex with men.

As requested, I attach a copy of my CV.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive name followed by a long horizontal flourish.