

The Infected Blood Public Inquiry NEWSLETTER



THE
HAEMOPHILIA
SOCIETY

A summary of remote inquiry hearings

The inquiry heard evidence from Jan Barlow, Macfarlane Trust (MFT) chief executive 2013-18 and Roger Evans, MFT chair 2012-16. Liz Carroll, former CEO of The Haemophilia Society, also gave evidence (see below).

The inquiry looked at how the MFT worked with the Department of Health (DoH) and engaged with recipients. Ms Barlow said she attended two MFT partnership group meetings dur-

ing her four-year tenure as the group folded. Mr Evans said he met beneficiaries through MFT weekend events, which were discontinued due to lack of funds. Both Mr Evans and Ms Barlow were asked to respond to criticism that they were afraid to “rock the boat” with DoH, with Mr Evans telling trustees not to “bite the hand that feeds them” when a critical letter to government was proposed. Mr Evans said he

preferred to make a quiet argument privately. He and Ms Barlow did not think it appropriate that the MFT campaign or fundraise. Mr Evans speculated that if the MFT had raised money the DoH may have cut its funding allocation. He said he had “considerable sympathy” with criticism that the MFT’s reserves were too high, although by the time he left in 2016 they stood at £1.6m, higher than his target of £750,000.

Inquiry news: Liz Carroll and Jan Barlow row

In January 2015 Jan Barlow and Roger Evans met The Haemophilia Society’s CEO Liz Carroll. They talked about the Penrose Inquiry and Ms Carroll said THS would be pressing the UK government to address its report quickly. Ms Carroll alleged that Ms Barlow responded by saying that the DoH should wait as long as possible before making any decision as more people would have died and there would be less people to pay. Ms Barlow said this was a “very serious” and “false” accusation. She said: “I neither thought that nor said it.” Mr Evans also denied the comment was made. The MFT threatened Ms Carroll and THS with legal action and shortly afterwards the allegation was withdrawn and an apology issued. Ms Carroll told the inquiry: “I remember those words being said.”

Quotes of the week

“It is a pity that you had, so often, no actual recollection or couldn't remember what the answers might be or what actually happened...” Sir Brian Langstaff to Jan Barlow

“I'm not sure how much our agendas overlapped, really. My understanding was that the majority of The Haemophilia Society's beneficiaries weren't people who'd been infected. “ Jan Barlow on The Haemophilia Society

“We were told how much we were getting. We weren't asked how much we needed.” Jan Barlow on MFT funding from DoH

“With my experience of engaging and trying to get value from central government, what civil servants did not like was some public demands and .. some comments which were less than complimentary about them...”
Roger Evans

“We didn't have the funds to fight this. It could have brought the charity down.”

Liz Carroll on retracting her allegation against Jan Barlow.

“Our concerns are not the government's concerns. We do not exist to carry out their policies.”

Kate Evans, MFT trustee 2013