

The Infected Blood Public Inquiry NEWSLETTER



THE
HAEMOPHILIA
SOCIETY

A summary of inquiry hearings from London

The role of clinicians in Birmingham and Bradford haemophilia centres was investigated by the inquiry this week.

A presentation was given about Prof Frank Hill, who was co-director of Birmingham Haemophilia Centres from 1976 before moving full time to the Children's Hospital in 1992. Prof Ian Franklin, his fellow co-director from gave evidence in person, followed by Dr Jonathan Wilde, his suc-

cessor from 1992 until 2016. The evidence looked at what was known about risk of infection and issues around patient consent.

The presentation looked at Prof Hill's relationship with the pharmaceutical company Armour, which was the sole commercial supplier to Birmingham Children's Hospital's haemophilia centre in the early 1980s and contributed to a "research fund"

through Birmingham Health Authority. Prof Franklin joined QEH in 1983 and was "shocked" that one dose of factor could result in a non A non B hepatitis infection. As the AIDS crisis emerged, Prof Franklin was critical of the lack of psychological support for his patients which he said "added to the tragedy".

Evidence next week is from Prof Eric Preston and Prof Charles Hay from 2-5 November.

Inquiry news

Professor Liakat Parapia described taking over as director of Bradford Haemophilia Centre as a relatively inexperienced consultant at the age of 31. He said centre facilities were "abysmal", lacking even a dedicated treatment room with patients often seen in a laboratory. He gradually built it up to offer "comprehensive care", including a dental consultant, a social worker and nurse specialist. When Prof took over as acting director in 1981 virtually all patients were treated with cryoprecipitate—as a result other directors regarded Bradford's centre as "an inferior place". Prof Parapia described his guilt at making the decision to switch to commercial factor in 1982 and said he was to blame for his patients—whom he regarded as his friends—becoming infected. He became emotional as he concluded his evidence and said the scandal should "never have happened." He apologised to his patients.

Quotes of the week

"Without knowing it, I'm responsible for infecting them [his patients]... All I can say is I'm sorry." Prof Parapia

"We were desperate for guidance and ...we were desperate for leadership which I don't think we ever got properly either from the government or UKHCDO. "

Prof Parapia

"As a single-handed consultant a vast bulk of my time was taken by managing all the problems that arose [with HIV].. hepatitis C at that particular time was taking a bit of a back seat."

Dr Wilde

"I'm ashamed to say I'm not sure I would have had the strength of character to go against the prevailing view."

Prof Franklin on whether he would have stopped factor concentrate if he'd joined before 1983

"I have paid our first 1985 donation to your research fund to the Finance Department of the Central Birmingham Health Authority."

A letter from Armour pharmaceutical company to Prof Hill in March 1985