

The Infected Blood Public Inquiry NEWSLETTER



THE
HAEMOPHILIA
SOCIETY

A summary of this week's remote hearings

Professor Christopher Ludlam, director of Edinburgh Haemophilia Centre 1980-2011 gave evidence this week.

He built up the centre's home treatment programme from six patients to 45 by the mid 1980s. In 1982 he was warned his programme was using 80% of the region's Scottish-made factor and would need to be curtailed. The "crisis" was avoided when PFC, which made the Scottish

product, improved its output.

Prof Ludlam said there was much "puzzlement and confusion" about the emerging AIDS threat. In 1983 he reviewed his treatment, but, having learnt there were no cases of HTLV-III in Scotland, decided that the risk of continuing with Scottish-made factor was "small, but not zero". Early that year he started an "Aids Study". Patients included were not

asked for consent and not told the results of the analysis. He denied that his "investigative ambitions" affected his treatment choices.

In Oct 1984 he discovered a batch had infected 16 of his patients. With a newspaper about to expose this, he held a group meeting with patients and left it to them to contact him to find out more. Two patients were not told of their HIV for more than two years.

Inquiry news

Sir Brian Langstaff, said it was "entirely wrong" that a document co-authored by Prof Ludlam about healthcare in Scotland over the last 50 years, was submitted to the inquiry just hours before he began his evidence. Sir Brian said that the document would have "no further currency" at the inquiry and that it would not be read until the end of its investigations, along with all the other submissions. Sir Brian told Prof Ludlam: "It looks as though ... it's an attempt to preempt some of the discussion. Well, it isn't and Ms Richards will ask you the questions that she had in mind." Prof Ludlam apologised for the late arrival of the document which he said had been overseen by the Central Legal Office.

Quotes of the week

"The proportion of the global number may be small, though significant, but each and every one who suffered or continues to suffer is a real person, not simply a statistic, wherever they are in the UK...my team and I will never forget that." Sir Brian Langstaff speaking of those infected with HIV through contaminated blood on World AIDS Day

"I am very conscious of the almost unique group of haemophiliacs we have in Edinburgh because they have never received commercial concentrate. They are therefore..very useful material for a variety of studies in relation to liver disease." Prof Ludlam in 1980 on joining UKHCDO's Hepatitis Working Party

"We were suddenly seen as the ward that had AIDS patients in it. There was a reluctance of some...general hospital staff, actually to provide their usual services for the patients. For example, the porters would be very reluctant or refuse to take them down on a trolley down to the X-ray department." Prof Ludlam on the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary in 1984 when news of first HIV diagnosis broke