

# Inquiry Update

Edition 1  
March 2019

The newsletter on the Infected Blood Inquiry for those registered with Thompsons Solicitors Scotland, members of the Scottish Infected Blood Form, and members of Haemophilia Scotland who have asked to be kept informed.

## Inquiry Oral Hearings set to begin

The Infected Blood Inquiry's public hearings will commence on 30 April 2019 in London. Hearings will take place throughout the UK and will take place in blocks until October 2019.

### 30 April London

At these hearings, people who have been infected and affected will give evidence. The number of witness statements that are being taken, means that it will not be possible for everyone to give oral evidence.

### 120 witnesses

The Chairman anticipates that around 120 people will give evidence during this phase of the hearings. He has said that there will be other chances for those who have been infected and affected to give oral

evidence at a later stage. The Chairman will read the written statements that are provided and will select who he wishes to provide oral evidence. He has emphasised that he will personally read every witness statement and that each statement will form part of the Inquiry's evidence and will inform its recommendations.

### 8 days in July

There will be eight days of hearings in Edinburgh in July. It will be possible to make a claim for travel and accommodation expenses in order to attend the hearings. The dates and venue of the oral hearings in Scotland, together with further information on making an expenses application are provided on page 3.

## Submission on the Penrose Inquiry

The Inquiry had invited Thompsons Solicitors, as representatives of those infected and affected, to prepare a submission on the evidence that was gathered by the Penrose Inquiry and set out in some detail in both the Preliminary and Final Reports. They wished to know which areas of the report were accepted and which were contentious.

Thompson's are in a unique position in being able to assist in this way given our involvement in the Penrose Inquiry. A 100 page submission was sent to the Inquiry on 31 January 2019. It is understood that this document will be made available to other core participants and their legal representatives via the Inquiry's document management system in due course. Any client of Thompsons who wishes a copy of the final submission should contact Lynn Fraser, Senior Solicitor in the Infected Blood team at Thompsons to request one.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Documents and Evidence

Members of the Inquiry's Investigative team recently visited clients of Thompsons who hold documentary evidence that will assist the Inquiry in their investigations.

It is vital that the Inquiry has access to this information which has been gathered as a result of years of campaigning. If anyone (i.e. Haemophilia Scotland or SIBF members, or clients of Thompsons) has any documentation which they feel might be relevant, they should get in touch to discuss this further.

Join the 'Scottish Contaminated Blood and Blood Products Campaign Discussion' on Facebook



You do not need to be on Facebook to follow the Inquiry as all key information will be sent out by email or letter. However, for those who want to discuss the campaign on Facebook there is a closed and private group. To join please friend request <https://www.facebook.com/dan.farthing.HS> and then send a message asking to be added.

# List of Issues

You may already be aware that the Inquiry has published their List of Issues, which will help direct the Inquiry in its investigations. It can be found at:

<https://www.infectedbloodinquiry.org.uk/sites/default/files/inline-files/List%20of%20Issues.pdf>

If there are any additions that clients feel should be made, please contact Thompsons and we can pass these to the Inquiry team.

<p>Decision-making: general</p> <p>The role of Government</p> <p>Knowledge of risk</p> <p>Policy-making, decision-making and actions</p> <p>Self-sufficiency</p> <p>The role of the blood services</p> <p>Knowledge of risk</p> <p>Policy-making, decision-making and actions</p> <p>Regulation</p> <p>Viral inactivation/heat treatment and other measures to reduce risk</p> <p>Viral inactivation/heat treatment</p> <p>Donor selection/screening</p> <p>Screening of donations</p> <p>Other measures to reduce risk</p> <p>The role of haemophilia centres and the UKHCDO</p> <p>Knowledge of risk</p> <p>Policy-making, decision-making and actions</p> <p>Lord Mayor Treloar College (Treloar's)</p> <p>The role of other NHS bodies</p> <p>Knowledge of risk</p>	<p>Policy-making, decision-making and actions</p> <p>The role of medical practitioners</p> <p>Knowledge of risk</p> <p>Provision of information to people about the risks of blood products</p> <p>Provision of information to people about the risks of transfusion</p> <p>Guidance</p> <p>Consent</p> <p>Policy-making, decision-making and actions</p> <p>The role of pharmaceutical companies</p> <p>The international market for blood products</p> <p>Relevant companies and corporate structures</p> <p>Communication of risk of HCV, HIV and other infections</p> <p>The collection of blood for use in pooled plasma products</p> <p>a. the company/organisation obtaining the blood;</p> <p>b. the company/organisation that was producing the blood product?</p>	<p>Interaction with the UK regulatory and medical authorities</p> <p>Pharmaceutical companies' interactions with the licensing authorities</p> <p>a. What was the extent of any such interaction?</p> <p>b. What was the purpose of any such interaction, so far as the company was concerned?</p> <p>c. What, if any, internal company policies or guidance governed such interactions?</p> <p>d. What, if any, external policies, guidance or regulations governed such interactions?</p> <p>e. What, if any, budget was allocated for such interaction, and how was it spent?</p> <p>f. How did these matters change over time, and, if they did, why?</p> <p>Individual products</p> <p>Intended use and licensing</p>	<p>Studies</p> <p>Risks</p> <p>Heat treatment</p> <p>Response to infection</p> <p>The role of the Haemophilia Society</p> <p>Scale of infection and response</p> <p>Cover up, lack of candour and openness</p> <p>Impact on people infected and affected</p> <p>Impact on people infected</p> <p>Impact on people affected</p> <p>Stigma</p> <p>Access to treatment, care and support</p> <p>Response of Government and others</p> <p>Trusts and Schemes</p> <p>General</p> <p>Establishment of the Alliance House Organisations</p> <p>Funding</p> <p>Operation of the Trusts and Schemes</p> <p>Revised Schemes</p> <p>Future</p>
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## It's not too late to sign up!

It is useful to bear in mind that it is not too late to become a core participant!

It is important to note that the Inquiry is taking a very wide and open approach to Core Participant status. They will grant it to anyone who is infected or affected by the scandal. This means that family members of those infected can apply. One of the Terms of Reference states that the Inquiry will also

examine whether people may have been exposed to the risk of other diseases (such as vCJD) as a consequence of the use of infected blood or blood products. We also think that individuals who are not infected with Hepatitis C or HIV but who have received notifications that they are at risk of CJD can apply to be core participants.

If you or any relatives or friends are not already registered with

another firm and would like to become a core participant and be represented by Thompsons, our legal representation form can be found at <https://www.thompsons-scotland.co.uk/medical-product-claims/other-diseases/infected-blood-legal-representation-form>



# Joint SIBF/Haemophilia Scotland Meeting

## An update from the Inquiry

### March 23 Queens Hotel, Perth, 1.30pm to 4pm

By Bill Wright,  
Chair of Haemophilia Scotland  
and John Rice  
Chair of the Scottish Infected Blood Forum

Book your place at,  
<https://jointcampaignmeeting.eventbrite.co.uk>

We really look forward to catching up with as many people as possible at this gathering. The Inquiry are helping fund it and it has been arranged by SIBF / Haemophilia Scotland.

It is a great opportunity to hear from Catherine Nalty from the Infected Blood Inquiry and Lynn Fraser of Thompsons Solicitors Scotland about the latest developments and of course ask questions in person about progress. We can hear about the oral hearings coming up in Scotland in July and how people's written statements are being

processed and Catherine from the Inquiry will take any questions you have.

Previous such get-togethers in Scotland have proven to be a really valuable opportunity for people to constructively share their thoughts with each other and discuss how we can continue to work together in Scotland and support each other at such a demanding time. Working together, with the support of Thompsons Solicitors, is what marks us out in terms of the positive Scottish identity within this Inquiry.

## Infected Blood Inquiry Scottish Hearings

Hearings will take place from Tuesday 2 July until Friday 5 July and from Monday 8 July to Thursday 11 July 2019 at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre.

A full list of hearing dates and venues can be found at <https://www.infectedbloodinquiry.org.uk/news/inquiry-confirms-dates-and-venues-public-hearings-and-outlines-how-witnesses-will-be-selected>

Details of how to register to attend the hearings will be published by the Inquiry in due course.

Some items of expenditure such as accommodation costs require prior written agreement from the Inquiry. There are also maximum rates that apply to claims. The Inquiry's Guidance on Claiming Expenses can be found at

<https://www.infectedbloodinquiry.org.uk/sites/default/files/2018-12-06-Guidance-on-claiming-expenses-v3.pdf>

Thompsons will assist any clients with making expenses applications or to answer any questions that they may have.



[haemophilia.scot](http://haemophilia.scot)  
[/infected-blood-inquiry](http://infected-blood-inquiry)  
0131 524 7286  
[ukinquiry@haemophilia.scot](mailto:ukinquiry@haemophilia.scot)

 [@HaemophiliaScot](https://twitter.com/HaemophiliaScot)



**THOMPSONS**  
SOLICITORS  
SCOTLAND

[TalkToThompsons.com](http://TalkToThompsons.com)

0141 221 8840

[BloodInquiry@  
thompsons-scotland.co.uk](mailto:BloodInquiry@thompsons-scotland.co.uk)

 [@TalkToThompsons](https://twitter.com/TalkToThompsons)



Scottish  
Infected  
Blood  
Forum

[sibf.org.uk](http://sibf.org.uk)  
0131 524 7286  
[mail@sibf.org.uk](mailto:mail@sibf.org.uk)

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