



Witness Name: Kate McDougall

Statement No.: WITN2198

Exhibits: **NOT RELEVANT**

Dated: 17th January 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF KATE MCDUGALL

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 5th November 2018.

I, Kate McDougall, will say as follows: -

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Kate McDougall. My date of birth is **GRO-C** 1948. My address is known to the Inquiry. I am retired but prior to this I was a nursery head teacher. My husband John and I were married in 1971 and divorced in May 2017. I am giving this statement in relation to my son Euan John William McDougall who was a severe haemophiliac with haemophilia A, who was born on **GRO-C** 1977. In particular, the nature of his illness, how the illness affected him, the treatment received and the impact it had on him and our lives together.

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Section 2. How Affected

2. Euan was treated at Yorkhill throughout his life and the consultant there was a Dr Willoughby. Euan was treated with factor VIII as and when he needed it. We would take him to hospital and it was great to have the home treatment. At first it was just as and when he needed treatment but then later it became prophylactic treatment. Euan would complain at me about the treatment but not at doctors.
3. Euan had no symptoms prior to his diagnosis. I remember being called in and Anna Pettigrew was sat behind the desk and she said it would be okay and after we had a further meeting was arranged with my husband. At that first meeting I was by myself and they said that Euan was HIV positive and I did not need an explanation because my own brother Terry had already been infected with HIV due to having treatment for his haemophilia. Dr Pettigrew emphasised what you could do as opposed to what you couldn't. She said you could still hug him and give him a kiss. I believe that Dr Pettigrew knew that I had experience with HIV due to my brother.
4. In terms of information was adequate, I would say that I knew about it already due to my brother, so it didn't really matter what information they did or did not give me at that point. I do believe they should have said earlier about the risk and especially due to my brother. The AIDS element of everything was a real bolt from the blue. I do believe the Dr Pettigrew was fine in how she told me things. I believe that we were told about infecting other people or cross contamination, by a nurse in Yorkhill and we'd already been given some information by Dr Pettigrew.

Section 3. Other Infections

5. Euan was infected with HIV.

Section 4. Consent

6. I do not believe there were any issues in terms of consent with Euan's infection and subsequent treatment.

Section 5. Impact

7. I do not believe any symptoms affected Euan until the later stages of his life. We never told him that he had HIV. He knew we he started going to the clinic and the other boys there. We tried not to make a big thing of it. There was no way of telling what would happen and we just got on with life. Prior to when we found out about Euan's HIV, John thought that he could avoid bleeds but it was almost like he was wrapping him in cotton wool. John thought that Euan should almost make it a project for him to never get bleeds. I believe that was partially just down to John's lack of knowledge about haemophilia at that point.
8. My husband recalled that Dr Pettigrew said that there would be a five-year period from that diagnosis until the infection activated and then they estimated that Euan would pass away.
9. From the appointment Euan was diagnosed, his blood was tested every six months. It was very hard going, I think I myself must have just wanted away from haemophilia. My brother's life had been totally different to Euan's. My brother was frustrated, he would just have blood transfusions as whole blood instead of any factor VIII treatment or anything like that. He had to go to a doctor in Edinburgh and I remember my mum would take Terry. I believe this was a tough time for my mother going from Wishaw to Edinburgh. I recall one time she ran up to get the bus to go in to Edinburgh and they'd missed it and Terry was in a great deal of pain due to a bleed and a woman from a big house nearby showed up and took them. My mother always

remembered that. I think generally she was suffering from exhaustion of dealing with haemophilia.

10. We did try and avoid using American factor VIII and often Yorkhill only had the American products and we were faced with the choice of letting a bleed continue or treating it.
11. Euan was treated with AZT when his HIV became active. This was a strong drug and he had to take seven tablets. It felt like everyone was experimenting. This was a strong drug and it did have a severe effect on him. He was on a number of other medications and supplements at that time too. I do not recall Euan ever having to go to hospital for an overdose of AZT. I believe it was Dr Gibson at Yorkhill who dealt with AZT. We got pretty used to putting in drips and injecting Euan for treatments as and when he required them. For three years we had to set up two double drips. I believe this slowed down his becoming blind as Euan became fully blind by the time that he passed. One of his last sentences I remember was how did end up blind. He was a young man of 16 and he ended up slowly going blind over the years. There was a film I saw fairly recently where the main character also went blind and I remember at one point one of the lines was he went blind in the end. I do not remember the name of this film.
12. Euan spent 2-3 hours on a drip. He was 13 when he started going blind and was in his left eye first. This may be related encephalitis which is brain inflammation. It was generally easy for us to get treatment and the service was good. We were lucky in this treatment with our health service. I believe AZT was the only treatment at the time for dealing with HIV. When Euan was on AZT, when his HIV had become active, I can't really remember much in the way of symptoms. I noticed that he started to get tired more. They had a little group at the clinics they went to and we saw it all happening to them too.

13. This did not impact on any other treatment or dental treatment that Euan required.
14. In terms of the impact on family life, Euan was all that our focus was. We had to keep him alive and entertained. There was a huge void after he passed, we spent a lot of time watching other people have a normal life and felt that we've never had normal life and I still do not feel I have recovered. I do get on with things and don't complain about it and I try to be a good friend and sister but there is too big a gap there, it's impossible to fill. I've not moved on to the stage that my friends are at where they have children who have grown up and gone to university and things like that. I feel that I'm stuck in a situation where I am that has not changed over the years.
15. In terms my social life, I do have a large group of friends and we do travel a lot. I recall we got a lovely cottage in Argyll as a distraction when Euan died. This is more me and my husband. Largely, my social life has not been affected. Euan would be pissed off if we did not move on. Euan used to say that you had to make the best of the cards that you have been dealt with.
16. In terms of the stigma, there was not much impact. My brother had already been infected HIV and later passed away so we'd dealt with that before. With Euan's HIV people didn't know. It wasn't visible. Even when he was on medication he did quite well, he was head of the school quiz team.
17. Even when Euan was very ill, we did not even say to our own parents. Our own parents were very worried. John remembered that when Euan died they all guessed he had AIDS. It was Euan's business and I didn't feel that it was something that really needed to be known by everyone. The school did not know.

18. In terms of the impact on finances and work, I would say that stopped work when Euan was ill but we were still able to the mortgage with John working. I did not go back to work until 1996 or 1997. I stopped work when Euan went on AZT which would have been around about 1990. I did later recant the same work. I went back to university to do a qualification in the early years. My wages over the time I wasn't working would have amounted to a lot as I was at my maximum as a primary teacher, now that would be £30,000

Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support

19. Both my husband and I have in counselling since Euan died. I went to see a friend of a friend who is a counsellor.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

20. In terms of financial assistance, I did the application for Skipton. When we received the £30,000 I know that we were separated, my husband and I, so we did split that. I recall it being an easy process to apply for this. I don't really have an opinion on if it was adequate. I do not believe we received any other financial assistance. When Euan was being looked after I did get attendance allowance in the form of benefits and Euan got a Motability car.

Section 8. Other Issues

21. For the Penrose enquiry, I did give a statement. I don't think any haemophiliacs were happy with what came out of Penrose and they did not apportion enough blame to anyone during this.

Statement of Truth

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed

GRO-C

Dated

25/2/19.