

Witness Name: Kerri Heslop

Statement No: WITN7172001

Exhibits: 0

Dated: September 2022

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF KERRI HESLOP

I, Kerri Heslop, will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Kerri Heslop. I was born on GRO-C 1987, and I live at GRO-C
GRO-C Somerset GRO-C
2. My uncle, Colt Denver Sinclair (formerly Price), born GRO-C 1982, was co-infected with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), the Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) and the Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) through contaminated Factor VIII (FVIII) concentrate. Colt developed AIDS Related Complex (ARC). He died as a result of complications of pneumonia on 25th August 1992, aged 10.
3. This Witness Statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my uncle's medical records.

4. My mother, Sarah-Jane Ward, has provided her own Witness Statement to the Inquiry (Witness Number WITN7159001-2). This Statement should be read in conjunction with her Statement.

Section 2. How Affected

5. My uncle Colt had moderate Haemophilia A. He was treated with FVIII concentrate through the Plymouth Haemophilia Centre at the Derriford Hospital. He was 3 years old when he was diagnosed as being infected with HIV. I refer to my mum's Statement for further details.

Section 3. Other Infections

6. I am not aware of any other infection.

Section 4. Consent

7. Colt was given Factorate as a treatment without his parents' consent and against their wishes.

Section 5. Impact of the Infection

8. One of my earliest memories is having a happy mother but a mum who always cried when she thought we didn't know. I was far too young at the time to understand that Colt had died and would not come back. It was a confusing time to know that you are your mum's world, yet her heart was clearly broken. For me as a child, navigating through that grief, was hard. My grandad had a

shrine to Colt, talking of him often as if to keep his spirit alive. My mum could only say his name and then anything more she would remove herself. This wave of profound, tangible grief. I felt any questions would make her shatter into pieces.

9. As time has gone on, I have been able to truly understand Colt and their special bond. Our uncle with this infectious smile and special nature.

10. In my teens, I came across a letter Colt had written to his headteacher begging to go to school. Educating the educator on how AIDS is passed. Written with no malice to those awful individuals who discriminated against him or those hateful families. But written with a genuine want to learn and be around others. It broke my heart, and I began to understand what my mum had tried to protect us from.

11. The impact of how Colt suffered is still felt acutely today. The injustice surrounding his short life is very much a part of our family. Ill treatment, discrimination and how the highest of health professionals changed his death certificate. This sticks and affects us all. I am just proud of how my mum, after all these years, has been able to have a voice. For herself and for Colt. To try to get people to be accountable for their actions and in doing so educate others on Colt's resilience and his strength. Beyond his years and beyond that of professionals at the time but ultimately that of a child whose life was not stolen by haemophilia but by AIDS.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

12. I refer to my mum's Statement for details.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

13. I am unable to comment on the issue of financial assistance.

Anonymity

14. I do not wish to apply for anonymity, and I understand that this Statement will be published by the Inquiry.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed.....K M Heslop.....

Dated01/10/2022.....