

# ANONYMOUS

Witness Name:

Statement No.: WITN0103001

Exhibits: Nil

Dated: 16th January 2019

## INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

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WRITTEN STATEMENT OF

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I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 07 December 2018.

I,  will say as follows: -

### Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is . I am the second child and only son of   
 and . I am an aircraft electrician by trade.
2. I understand that my mother,  has provided a statement to the Inquiry, which details the nature of my father's illness, how he came to be infected and the subsequent consequences. Additionally, she has discussed the Inquest his death was subject to, and the investigations carried out by North Wales Police.
3. I do not, therefore, consider it necessary to repeat the information she has already provided to the Inquiry. In this statement I intend to speak about my

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late father, [redacted] F [redacted] is infection with Hepatitis C (HCV), and the impact it had on my family and me.

### **Section 2. How Affected**

4. How my father came to be infected has already been recorded in my mother's statement.

### **Section 3. Other Infections**

5. I do not believe my father was infected with anything other than Hepatitis C as a result of infected blood products.

### **Section 4. Consent**

6. I have no knowledge of any consent issues relation to my father's infection or subsequent treatment.

### **Section 5. Impact**

7. Although my father was not a well man prior to being infected, the toll on his health was exacerbated tremendously after being infected; his weight dropped to a ridiculous level, and his abdomen became swollen, as did his joints. He was in constant pain, which he tried to hide from us.
8. He would get out of breath doing the slightest of jobs or activities; even going to the bathroom became a major chore for him. This had a huge impact on his mental health. It was massively debilitating and depressing for him to continue living, and towards the end I believe that he perceived that there was no enjoyment left in life.
9. The course of my father's illness and what happened to him is documented in my mothers' statement. She has additionally addressed

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the treatments he received for HCV and as such, I do not find it necessary to repeat them here.

10. The difficulties or obstacles in accessing treatments experienced by my father are documented in my mothers' statement. However, I would like to add that the amount of travel and the enormous amount of time my parents spent in hospital waiting rooms and appointments, along with the lengthy stays from being admitted to hospital would be astonishing to anyone who had not witnessed it. I cannot comprehend how they both endured it for so many years, and it is a testament to my mother that she stayed the devoted wife to the end.
11. My father was considered for a liver transplant but was deemed unsuitable. I do not know the full reasons for this. However, if he had been suitable, then I can only assume that there may have been a chance that could have survived for many more years.
12. I do not believe my father's infected status impacted upon any treatment, both medical and dental, that he required for any other conditions.
13. My father had very little quality of life once infected with HCV. He did not travel far away from home unless he had to. I believe that he worried that he could not cope with most things that the majority of people would take for granted. The only times he would go away from home was for medical appointments, or if they had managed to afford a holiday or short break, which in itself was stressful.
14. I remember once that myself and my mother and father travelled to Cambridgeshire to help my sister move into her first house. My father had always been good at DIY, but due to his illness was unable to help, which frustrated him very much as he could see all the work that required doing and so wanted to help, but instead had to watch as we did it all.

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15. The only social gatherings that my father would really tolerate would usually have to be at my parents' home as that was his safe place, and the place that he felt most comfortable. These events would be very few and far between, in fact usually only at Christmas time.
16. My father's illness had an impact on me growing up, although I had a very happy childhood. I had to take on many of the responsibilities that I feel should have been my father's role such as hedge cutting, lawnmowing, plumbing, electrics, DIY, car washing etc. All of these put me in good stead for the future, though I definitely did not appreciate it at the time. As a petulant teenager I felt the burden was unfair, but knew that it wasn't my parents' fault, and that it was just the way it was.
17. My father's death had more of an impact on me than I initially thought. After seeing him suffer for so long, I was almost relieved not only for him but for my mother also, in that she no longer had to care for him as she had done for so long.
18. Later, I realised how much I missed him. In particular, at his funeral I became aware of how unfair it had all been. I started smoking as it helped me relax, a habit that I only managed to kick a few years ago. I still think of things that I find and found unfair about him not being around. For example, I watch other friends going out for a beer with their dads, which is something I never experienced and would have loved to do.
19. The fact that I gave my sister away at her wedding was an honour, but at the same time I was very aware that it was not my role. Additionally, knowing that none of my sister's three wonderful children has ever met their Grandad is very upsetting.
20. I never felt there was a stigma attached to my father's HCV.

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21. I know that my father's death has had a big impact on many members of our family. My mother and my sister are both entering statements to the Inquiry so they can tell their own story on how it has affected them. I know it has affected them both very deeply. We still have deep and meaningful conversations about my dad to this day: we laugh together and cry together.
22. I also know how unjust my father's two brothers feel about what has happened to him. Both them and their families have been so supportive to my mother over the years, and we all appreciate that.
23. At the time of my father's death, I had been enrolled at a night class studying for the 16<sup>th</sup> edition IEE wiring regulations at GRO-B in GRO-B Once my father had died, I gave up the class, as I was mentally unable to think about studying anything. I've never returned to any form of study since then.
24. I also know that my sisters' studies were affected by my fathers' illness and death. As my sister is entering a statement to the Inquiry, it is for her to inform with regards to this matter.

### **Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support**

25. Treatment, care and support have not been made available to me or my family as a result of my father's infection with Hepatitis C and his subsequent death.

### **Section 7. Financial Assistance**

26. I understand that the financial assistance my Mum has received is addressed in her statement.

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**Section 8. Other Issues**

27. My family and I have been extremely shocked about some of the revelations that have already been unearthed by the announcement of the blood Inquiry. I, for one, will be following the Inquiry very closely in the hope that the truth and the answers that people are desperate for, finally come to light.
28. A part of me never wanted to revisit this, as for many of us it's an extremely painful reminder of old wounds, but I mostly feel that we all need to know the facts of what actually happened back then.
29. People need the truth, and I truly hope the Inquiry, and the Inquiry team can give that truth to everyone involved.

**Statement of Truth**

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

Signed                       
                    GRO-B

Dated 16-1-19