

Witness Name: Debbie Hadland

Statement No.: **WITN0120001**

Exhibits: Nil

Dated: 18.2.19.

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF DEBBIE HADLAND

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 24 October 2018.

I, Debbie Hadland, will say as follows: -

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Debbie Hadland. My date of birth is [GRO-C]1966 and my address is known to the Inquiry. I am an office manager, I am married and I live with my husband and our two dogs.
2. I intend to speak about my late father Kenneth Kidd Deakin ([GRO-C]1941 – 5/10/2014). He had been infected with Hepatitis C virus (“HCV”), as a result of being given infected blood through a blood transfusion.
3. In particular, I intend to discuss the nature of his illness, how the illness affected him, the treatment he received and the impact it had on him and our lives together.
4. I confirm that I have chosen not to be legally represented and that I am happy for the Inquiry team to assist me with my statement.

Section 2. How Affected

5. My parents got married on 19 August 1961.

6. Up until his first heart bypass my father was employed as a supervisor at Laporte Chemicals in Warrington. He returned to work shortly after the bypass, finishing his employment with the company when redundancy came up. He thought that his health should come first, so he opted for voluntary redundancy. Being the person he was, dad did not stop working. He was self-employed for some time, before managing the local post office. He then managed another local shop with Mum up until his retirement in 2009.

7. He had a heart bypass on Easter Weekend 1986. He collapsed at home, after we had been out for the day visiting relatives in Worcestershire. The doctor came out and phoned an ambulance immediately. He was taken to Wythenshawe Hospital that evening and the doctors told him he had 6 weeks to live. A triple bypass was carried out a few days after. He was 45 at the time, and was a healthy man without any problems.

8. We discovered that he had previously had a heart attack, but he was not made aware of this until he had the bypass surgery. Prior to the heart bypass he had not received any blood transfusions.

9. He was in intensive care for 24 hours before being transferred to a high dependency ward. After 3 days he was put on a normal ward, and within 2 weeks he was back at home.

10. In total, dad was only off work for 8 weeks. During this time, as he was very much into DIY and he wanted to keep fit, he built a patio; he recovered marvellously.

11. He had no problems after the surgery, and shortly after his return to work he started fundraising for the hospital. As a family we were so grateful for

what the hospital did that we organised bike rides from Blackpool to Paris and dinner dances. Even dad's surgeon Mr Campbell, attended one of the dinner dances. We raised £10,000 over the period. To demonstrate their gratitude, the hospital opened a ward in my dad's name; Princess Margaret hosted the opening ceremony.

12. We thought the hospital staff had saved his life and that they were wonderful people: I am sure they were unaware of what the outcome was going to be. It was the blood transfusions he received in surgery that infected him with Hepatitis C (HCV). It makes you feel bitter to think that through no fault of his own he contracted an illness, which was going to kill him. The blood should have been screened.
13. Dad's first bypass changed his life, it was extremely good and he could live normally for 28 years before having to undergo another bypass. He was admitted on 4 January 2010 for the surgery, where he would receive blood transfusions again. Further blood tests were carried out before and after the surgery, but no problems were detected. He suffered from angina but after that he was fine again. I was baffled that HCV did not show up in the blood tests taken prior to his second heart bypass.
14. After the second bypass, dad could not come home because something was not right. Mum and I were told that they had to do more blood tests. I wanted to know what was going on, but all the doctors told me is that a value in his blood was not right. Nobody ever mentioned something more specific.
15. Around 2005/6 our GP ran a routine blood test and told dad that his liver levels were high and that he should stop drinking. He did not have any further liver tests until being seen at Liverpool Hospital. Although dad liked a drink every now and then, he definitely did not have an alcohol problem. I would have never have associated this with HCV at the time. We all thought that if he stopped drinking he would be fine, but now I strongly believe that at this point someone knew of his infection.

16. The doctors found out about HCV in 2011, only three years before his death (he died on 5 October 2014). A blood test had been carried out as part of a check up after his bypass, and dad had no idea that anything was wrong. Dr [GRO-D] called him in for an appointment following the results. She explained that there was only two ways of contracting HCV, through drug use or unprotected sex with other men or women. He was not questioned about receiving blood transfusions, if he had tattoos or informed of any treatment.
17. He was mortified to come home and tell my mum what the doctor had said. Had they not been in a strong marriage, it could have broken their relationship. I told dad that he could have got the infection through the blood transfusion.
18. When dad was first diagnosed by his GP, I don't think that he was provided with enough information. When he came home after this appointment he did not even know what HCV was.
19. I explained to my friend who I worked with, what happened to my dad and she confirmed me that HCV could also be contracted via blood transfusions. This friend knew a nurse at Liverpool Hospital who specialised in HCV, HIV and AIDS, so we arranged for my dad to be referred to this hospital. From this point on, as all his care was directed from Liverpool his medical attention progressed. He did not go back to the GP again.
20. I do not know what would have happened if I did not have the contact at Liverpool Hospital, through my friend at work. I wonder how things would have moved forward. After all his medical care was transferred to Liverpool Hospital, information was explained well to my parents.
21. During the initial appointment at the Hospital in Liverpool, the doctors said that HCV could only be transferred through blood. Dad was asked when he received his blood transfusions. It was determined that the infection

was from the first bypass surgery, as that was blood imported from America and at that time it was not screened. The specialist was disgusted at GP's behaviour and words.

22. My parents were told that the virus can lie dormant for a long period or may in fact never come to light. For dad something had triggered the virus, which then started to attack his liver. I have the strong feeling that the second bypass could have triggered it.
23. The hospital started to carry out tests. I remember that he always had appointments, regular ultrasound scans; he also had an endoscopy and even had a bone density test.
24. He then went to Warrington Hospital for a full body scan. The level in his liver never changed for three years. Each time we received results, the hospital staff were pleased.

Section 3. Other Infections

25. Dad did not contract any other infections as a result of being given blood transfusions.
26. At Liverpool Hospital he was tested for HIV, but this was negative. This test was never offered by his doctors' practice in Lymm.

Section 4. Consent

27. When my father went in for his first heart bypass, he knew he would receive a blood transfusion as part of the operation. He received 8 pints of blood to restart his body back up again, but he was never warned that there could be a risk of HCV infection or any other infection at all.

28. To the best of my knowledge my father was given full information before being tested or treated. He always knew when his blood was tested so consent was always given.

29. I do not think that he was tested for the purposes of research.

Section 5. Impact

30. Initially, after he was diagnosed, dad didn't suffer any side effects, although he was in shock to think that he was infected with HCV.

31. By the passing of time, mum and I did notice that he was tired more often. He kept saying that he would repair the rabbit hutch, but at the end he never did it. Usually he would have done jobs like that straight away, without postponing them all the time. He became more and more lethargic and would talk very slow.

32. One morning my mum phoned to say that he could not move; his legs and feet were swollen. He couldn't even move a spoon to his mouth as his knuckles were swollen. He went straight to A&E at Liverpool Hospital and was kept in for two weeks. At first he was placed in isolation as the doctors thought it was an infection.

33. After leaving hospital dad did get a little bit better, but he still could not walk properly. I remember that he decided to buy a Freeview box for the television and that he said that he wanted to go into the shop to collect it. I remember that when we arrived there the shop assistant asked me if dad needed a wheelchair, his question shocked me; I couldn't believe that we were talking about my dad.

34. As the hospital appointments went on, the doctors kept asking my dad whether he felt confused. We were all unsure why they kept asking that question but it is something they never explained to us at all.

35. I suffer with anxiety and panic attacks, so I could not drive the car on the motorway to visit my parents. So, my husband would drop me half way, where my dad would pick me up. I remember that dad would shove his mobile phone in random places in the car and then keep on wondering where he put it. My mum said that he was "losing his *marbles*". We never connected this with him being asked about "confusion"; we assumed it was just because he was getting older.
36. I do recall my mother saying that once while he was getting dressed, he had tried to put two legs down one trouser hole.
37. On one occasion I went to my parents' home in Wales as mum and I had planned to go shopping in Chester. I left the dog with dad and asked him to feed him. When we came back we found three different bowls on the floor. His voice was slurred and he could not understand why there were three bowls. This is when mum and I realised something was not quite right.
38. He kept saying there was nothing wrong with him, but even when he spoke to his sister on the phone, she later said to us that it did not sound like him at all.
39. In that period my parents were due to go away on holiday, but we had to tell my dad that he was not well enough to go; he was very upset and annoyed. He was so unwell that we had to take him to hospital and he ended up in A&E. The doctors asked him all the sort of questions but I remember that he did not even know when my birthday was. This was particularly upsetting.
40. There were periods when he was okay, but then all of a sudden he could always feel that "the confusion was coming on".
41. During August 2014, dad was readmitted into Hospital. I slept at the hospital with Mum for the last 8 days, only leaving for few hours. At this

point, the “confusion” was more on than off. He would ask the staff if they could do something to stop it.

42. In those days a huge blood blister appeared. He said that he fell in the night, hit his hand on the bin, and that he was there for ages on the floor. But the blood blisters kept appearing.
43. His eyesight deteriorated. He used to enjoy word searches, but could no longer do them.
44. Whilst he was in hospital, Mum was told by the liver specialist Mr GRO-D that dad had acute liver failure, and there was no more they could do. A nursing sister was also present and she particularly upset Mum. She asked “*what do you mean there is nothing you can do?*”, to which the nurse replied “*you heard what he said*”. I think that this was rather abrupt especially considering that Mum had already been told some very upsetting news.
45. When I was told of this episode I got very angry. I spoke with the consultant and explained that Mum should not have just been taken into a room and told something like that. She should have been given warning, and offered for someone else to come with her. I asked him how long dad had left and his very first word was weeks, but he quickly said months. Dad died 4 weeks later.
46. The deterioration was incredible. Dad wanted to come home, back to my house. When he first came back he did not even want to eat.
47. The combination of the liver and the kidneys not working obliged him to have his stomach drained. 15 litres of liquid would be taken, and by the following day the liquid would come straight back. After the liquid was taken he was unable to stand up because of the imbalance of weight.

48. Mum and I coped for two weeks with dad at home but it was extremely difficult. During the night he would wake up every 10 minutes. He was slightly better during the day.
49. He loved my staffie Ruby but in the end he could not bear to be around her. She hurt him when she sat on his knee.
50. As a result of the HCV infection, dad suffered with hepatic encephalopathy which is a feeling of confusion caused by the damage made to the liver by the cirrhosis. Due to the liver not functioning properly, toxins were released to his brain and they poisoned his body. He would say he could "feel the confusion coming on".
51. On one particular day, while mum went back to Wales to collect some of their belongings, dad said to my husband and I that he was tired, so we took him upstairs to lie down. He kept asking for mum and questioning if she was ever coming back. At this point he was hallucinating, and I thought he was going to die. He asked if everyone could leave the room except me: he settled down only when Mum arrived back.
52. Due to this "confusion" brought on by liver cirrhosis, he had to stop driving. He loved driving to different places.
53. My parents were told that his "confusion" could be treated by a medicine called Lactulose, a strong laxative that would remove toxins out of the body. They said the medication was necessary but actually it made things worse. It was horrendous, with each prescription he would be prescribed 10 bottles at a time and he became incontinent. He told my mum that he could not go on like it, so she stopped giving him the medication.
54. Despite his pleas not to, my Mum and I ended up taking dad back into hospital; this happened on mid September 2014. I was due to go to Scotland on the 28th but I did not go as this was the day the doctors told

us that dad had only few days to live. We could not cope with caring for him at home. He died 8 days later on 5 October 2014.

55. Dad never complained about being ill, but one of the times I visited him (on the 28th September 2014) he was wearing a mesh nappy and was covered in blood. They had tried to drain his stomach again but it was not possible. This was the first time he ever said he did not feel well. Remember that the doctors told us that after this episode, he only had few days left.
56. During his last few days, he would cry out in pain and ask the nurses to give him something. I remember that even the nurse cried, she commented that it was the saddest experience she ever had in her whole working life. Dad constantly asked to come home but he was not able to. The day before he died he was unconscious, but he was groaning.
57. In relation to the obstacles that my dad had to face to get treatments, I remember that shortly after dad was diagnosed with HCV a nurse consultant at Liverpool Hospital spoke about a possible treatment. She explained that it would make him extremely ill for at least 2 years, with severe flu like symptoms and that the treatment was very invasive. At this stage he did have cirrhosis of the liver and he was also told that he would have died of something else before of HCV. She said the decision was up to dad, but she strongly advised him not to have the treatment because it was invasive and the results were not guaranteed. As such, he refused the treatment.
58. I remember that he also came to this decision because of the test results he received after the diagnosis. The cirrhosis showed no sign of developing and his liver levels were steady.
59. When dad went back to Liverpool Hospital in July 2014, the nursing specialist explained to him that a new tablet had been brought out in Belgium that would cure HCV. Only 500 people in the UK could receive

the medication, and we were phoned at a later date to say dad's name had been put forward and accepted. I was on holiday at the time when this was promised, and I was elated.

60. When they found out he had kidney failure he was too poorly to be given the tablet. I think that something should have been done before his health deteriorated.
61. Every time he went back for an appointment, they told him that they were still waiting to receive the tablet and they would promise to have it by the end of the week. Looking back I strongly believe that they would have known he was too ill for it to work anyway.
62. Dad clung onto this as a cure, and he would even ask if they had the tablet during the last 6 weeks leading up to his death.
63. I cannot understand how a treatment to keep the infection at bay was offered, but in the end never administered. I would have thought they would have tested him initially to ensure he was eligible, but to the best of my knowledge they didn't.
64. When dad was really ill I also asked the nursing specialist if he could have a liver transplant, to which her reply was "*why would you want to put your dad through that, it will make him even more poorly*". This should have been offered much earlier, before his condition deteriorated.
65. I am not aware whether dad experienced any problem with dental care, due to his HCV.
66. My father's infection with HCV certainly affected his social life. He loved to go to the club on a Saturday night, but he felt that he could no longer go there because he was not drinking. Hepatitis C also stopped my parents from doing activities they usually enjoyed doing together. We would go out but he was too tired to walk.

67. I do suffer with depression, and my condition was definitely affected by dad's infection with HCV.
68. As a family we did not experience any stigma. We live in such a small place that we know everyone and they all know us. No one ever stepped back or acted differently towards us.
69. I purposefully tell people about what happened to my dad, and no one has ever been horrible or not nice in response.
70. He had retired once the HCV was diagnosed so there was no impact upon his work. As such I cannot value the financial loss, but this would have been different if he had been younger. Despite that, I can say the Hepatitis C still impacted his day-to-day life. He was always building something or tinkering about in the shed, but the infection drained all his energies.

Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support

71. As a family we did not receive any psychological support.
72. It would have been helpful to receive some counselling or psychological support. I would have found it beneficial to speak with someone, perhaps more than my Mum.
73. The only time our family were offered any support was to visit a bereavement counsellor.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

74. My parents did receive financial support from the Skipton Fund from 2011 onwards. It was the nursing specialist at Liverpool Hospital that mentioned it, and this was the first time they were aware of its existence.

75. There was no hassle with the application itself as we received help to complete it. The consultant actually filled the forms on my father's behalf.
76. Within a couple of weeks my parents received a first stage payment of £25,000. This was followed by a second stage payment of £50,000 and a monthly payment of about £900.
77. Skipton Fund also covered the expense of my father's funeral.
78. My mother no longer receives the monthly payments through EIBSS. I think that she should still be entitled to that money as she has lost my dad to HCV and I am constantly worried about her bills.

Section 8. Other Issues

79. I have not been involved in any litigation.
80. I did try to contact the surgeon who did the initial bypass, when dad's HCV was diagnosed but I was unable to track his whereabouts.
81. I have never been tested for HCV.
82. The government need to be held responsible for importing infected blood, and the NHS for using the products. They knew the implications of what they were doing, they were using people.
83. Someone should be brought to justice for using blood from American prisoners.
84. I want to know why the use of infected blood has been kept quiet for so long and why paperwork went missing. I think the government at the time knew about evidence being destroyed, yet allowed it to happen.

85. I would like to know if the surgeon who did the first bypass knew if the blood could be infected. Especially if it states where the blood has come from when it was received by the hospital.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed GRO-C

Dated 18.2.19