

Witness Name: James Alexander Taylor

Statement No.: WITN000552001

Exhibits: 07/12/18

Dated:

## INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

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### FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF JAMES ALEXANDER TAYLOR

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I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 26<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

I, James Alexander Taylor, will say as follows: -

#### **1. Introduction**

1. My name is James Alexander Taylor. My date of birth and address are known to the Inquiry. I intend to speak about how I contracted Hep: C.

#### **2. How Infected**

2. In 1976 I went on holiday with my parent's a couple of days in I went to disco a late night dance, I went towards the bar with my glass somebody bump into me and I dropped the glass, suddenly I was struck in the face by a doorman I fell to the ground onto a piece of broken glass it lodged into the palm of my hand, thinking no more about it I returned home and back to work, I worked as a painter and decorator whilst working the palm of my hand started to swell so I

went to the hospital, had the hand x rayed and they found a particle of glass lodged in my hand, after an operation I had the glass removed and eleven stitches inserted. The hospital I attended was Woolman hill hospital Aberdeen. Approximately one week later the stitches in my hand burst had to go back to hospital again, underwent more surgery and had a drain in planted, I then went for blood tests therefore I was told I had Von Willie Brands Disease. This a mild form of haemophilia I was then injected with factor 8, and referred to a Dr.Dawson.

3. In 1978 moved Blackburn I Lancashire where I was married. Two years later my wife told me she was pregnant I started to make our new born cot and I slipped with a chisel spitting my thumb wide open. I was taken by ambulance to Blackburn royal infirmary with having Von Wille Brands the blood was pouring out the open wound and eleven stitches was inserted towards the end of the week my thumb was throbbing badly the stitches were removed and burst wide open the cut was redressed after reading through my notes was introduced to a Dr.Newsoms and again given factor 8. The wound healed and I moved on.
4. About five years down the line I slipped on a set of steps and put my foot through a glass door I split my toe wide open again it was back to the Blackburn Royal infirmary and seven stitches inserted again given factor 8. Under Dr.Newsoms. After nearly eight years living in England we decided to move back to Ellon Aberdeenshire.
5. About 1992 my wife and daughter and went out for the afternoon for a drink had a couple of pints I got up went to the toilet and fell on very wet floor smashing my face on the urinal I was knocked out, I ended up in the Aberdeen Royal infirmary under Dr.Dawson and given factor 8 .
6. Three years later I moved to [GRO-C] Merseyside and remarried the year 2000. I started working for a credit company collecting money, when doing my work one evening I was mugged I was battered over the head with a blunt instrument again I was taken to Arrow park hospital Birkenhead this time I had eleven stitches inserted into my head I told the Doctor's at the hospital I had Von Willie Brands disease they totally ignored me, a few days later the wound started to hematoma so I went back to the hospital reopened drained from then I made my way to the Royal Liverpool hospital where I met a professor Toh, and from then after blood tests I was informed I had Hepatitis C. this came as real shock, after being aware of my condition the rot set in I was in and out of hospital on many occasions as encephalopathy set in, this is a toxin witch comes from the liver that ended up with chronic liver disease, and cirrhosis of the liver, I couldn't walk, talk, fell all over the place, couldn't even tie my shoe laces, split my head three times, and broke my wrist, I all most died on October the 30th I was very fortunate to go through a liver transplant this gave me back my life. On that note this worst experience of my life I have lost so much I would not wish this on anyone if anyone out there has it I give them my deepest sympathies.

### **3. Other Infections**

7. I think my blood was tested for vCJD and HIV.

### **4. Consent**

8. When I was given Factor VIII I was never advised of the risks or offered alternative treatments.

### **5. Impact**

9. How Hep C has affected my life:

It has destroyed social life, I was speaking with a slurred voice, couldn't keep my balance, fell all over place, couldn't use a knife and fork my wife had to feed me, my whole world collapsed on me, my sex life was none existent, my marriage nearly fell apart and according to the medical board it has taken 15 years of my life span. I now live with this in fear of my life.

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

10. I was never offered counselling or psychological support. When visiting the dentist his treatment was fine.

**7. Financial Assistance**

11. I received three lump sum payments from the Skipton Fund of £25,000 each. I currently receive monthly payments from the EIBSS.

**8. Other Issues**

12. I believe the Government has been slow to reacting to this problem.

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**Statement of Truth**

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

Signed GRO-C \_\_\_\_\_

Dated 07/12/18