

Witness Name: Guy Kirkham Dewdney

Statement No: WITN1187001

Exhibits: WITN1187002 - 5

Dated: January 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF GUY KIRKHAM DEWDNEY

I, Guy Kirkham Dewdney will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Guy Kirkham Dewdney, I was born on the **GRO-C** 1961. I live at **GRO-C** **GRO-C** Worcestershire, **GRO-C** with my wife and two adult children.
2. I write this statement on behalf of my late father, William John Philip Dewdney. He was born on the **GRO-C** 1925 and lived at **GRO-C** **GRO-C** Worcestershire, **GRO-C**. He died on 02/07/2009, at age 84 from liver cancer.
3. My sisters', Janet Webb (WITN1596001) and Sabrina Hayward, (WITN1280001) have also produced a witness statement each for the inquiry.
4. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my late father's medical records. If and in so far as I have been provided with limited records the relevant entries are set out in the medical chronology at the end of this statement.

Section 2. How Affected

5. My father suffered from Haemophilia A. His medical records states that his Haemophilia A was mild/moderate. I do not know when the doctors first became aware of his Haemophilia, but I know that it became worse as he got older. There is a statement signed by my father that was found in my father's paperwork, which is exhibited at 'WITN1187002' and it provides a timeline from when he was diagnosed to when he was told about his infections.
6. I believe my father had several jobs, but when the Second World War started he left home to join the Merchant Navy. He then joined the Austin Rover Group and worked for 35 years until retirement.
7. I believe my father received Factor VIII (FVIII) blood products and blood transfusions throughout his life. This was always administered at the hospital. He was under the care of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham (QEH).
8. I do not know the exact date that my father was infected through contaminated blood products. However, I believe that he found out in the mid 1980s that he was infected with HIV. I believe this to be the case because there was a noticeable change in his mood and temperament around this time. At this time we were constantly arguing and I eventually asked my mother what was going on. She told me that he had recently received some bad news about his health. I asked if he had AIDS and she said "no, but he has been infected with the HIV virus... it is not AIDS but it could turn into AIDS."
9. I do not know how my father was informed of his HIV status and I do not know if any information was provided to him in relation to the infection. I do not know if my father was provided with any information beforehand of the risks of possible contamination involved in using blood products.

10. In the early 1990s, I believe my father was informed that he had Hepatitis C (Hep C) and Hepatitis B (Hep B). I was not told about this until the mid/late 1990s.

11. I do not know how my father was informed of his infection in relation to Hep C and Hep B and I do not know if any information was provided to my father in relation to the infections or if any information was provided in relation to how to manage the infections. However, in his statement exhibited at 'WITN1187002' my father states that he had an appointment on the 4 March 1994 and a Hep C test was carried out and shortly afterwards he was informed that he tested positive. There is also a letter to my father from April (Secretary to Dr Wilde), dated 5/07/1994 stating that a booklet on Hepatitis, which includes Hep C was provided. I am not sure if my father received this letter enclosed with the booklet. There is also a further letter in my father's medical records, dated 07/3/1994 to Dr Swire from Jonathan Wilde stating that my father has been fully counselled in relation to Hep C and the possibility of its progression to chronic liver disease. He had been offered a liver biopsy to assess whether he is a candidate for Interferon therapy. Copies of the above letters are exhibited at 'WITN1187003'.

12. In relation to the transmission of the infection, I believe my parents were aware that HIV could be transmitted through sexual intercourse, but I do not know when they were told. A medical record to Dr Swire from Dr Hill, dated 11/09/1987, which is exhibited at 'WITN1187004' suggests that a conversation about transmissions of the infection was discussed.

Section 3. Other Infections

13. I am unaware of any other infections that my father may have contracted through infected blood products. If he had been made aware of any other infections, he did not inform me of this.

14. In my father's medical records there is a letter from QEH which states that he is at risk of vCJD. I am not sure if there was a follow-up letter or consultation.

Section 4. Consent

15. I am unable to confirm if my father was treated or tested without his knowledge or consent. I believe it is possible that he was treated and tested without being given adequate information,

16. I cannot say if my father was treated or tested for the purposes of research.

Section 5. Impact of the Infection

17. When my father was told that he was infected with HIV, his mood changed. He became very tired and moody, and we were constantly arguing. I believe he was very depressed and was very snappy towards us. His life was full of worry. He became very concerned about developing full-blown AIDS, and every time he had a blotch or a mark on his skin he would worry that the AIDS was developing. Despite his infections, my father continued to work until retirement. He thought he would get to retirement age and be able to relax and enjoy it. But instead he was constantly worried about his health.

18. My father also became very worried about the family and was worried that we would be treated badly if people found out about his infections. We therefore kept it private within the family. We did share some laughs and he was able to meet his grandchildren.

19. By the time my father was diagnosed with Hep C, he was already worried about his infection in relation to HIV. However, he was more relaxed about his liver tests for Hep C, because he was told that he would probably outlive any damage.

20. I am not sure if my father was given any medication to treat his infections. My father was old and had boxes full of tablets, so I do not know whether some of the medication was for the infections. I do not believe he was given any of the modern treatment that was available. I know that there was medication

available to delay HIV turning into full-blown AIDS, but I do not know whether he had it.

21. When I found out that my father was infected with HIV, it was not a surprise as I was already worried about this based on what was in the media at the time. It was upsetting to see how it affected him. I could see that he was very concerned about the family. I had a part-time job, gardening with my father and it was commonplace that we would cut ourselves on rose bushes and other things in the garden. After my father became infected he would always say "do not use that cloth, it has my blood on it" and would worry about me touching him.

22. However, it was not so much how my father changed when he found out about the infections that upset me; it was how he was treated when his Hep C developed into liver cancer, which I found really upsetting.

23. In or about August/September 2008, we were told that my father had liver cancer. We sat in the room and he apologised to my mother. She said that he had nothing to be sorry for, but he said he was sorry that my mother would be left on her own. He was more worried about my mother, than he was about himself.

24. My father was later told that he was terminally ill and he was advised that my mother who was also in her 80s would not be able to look after him at home. We tried to find a care home that would accommodate my father for palliative care, but we were not successful. We went round to various care homes with a list of things that were wrong with my father. Initially, all of the homes would say that it was not a problem and that they had the staff to look after him in his final weeks. Every time I telephoned them back they would apologise and say they could not accommodate him. I asked if it was because of his HIV status and they would deny it and say it was a combination of his illnesses/ailments that made him too high a risk. My brother-in-law even offered one of the homes more money to take my father in for palliative care, but it was refused at the last minute.

25. Finally, we took my father to Princess of Wales Community Hospital, Bromsgrove where he was cared for until he passed away. Whilst there, I recall one of the nurses started to take his blood with no gloves on and my mother quickly informed her of his HIV status. When I went back to visit my father he was moved into a side ward on his own until he died a few weeks later.
26. When my father passed away, the doctor gave us a 'white paper' to take to the Registry Office. When we received this we saw that the doctor had written that my father died as a result of being given contaminated blood. The registrar noticed this and said it would have to go to the Coroner's Court, but he was on holiday for the next 2-3 weeks. This meant that we had to wait until after the Coroner returned to bury my father. This was very upsetting and something that still upsets me to this day.
27. The results of the Inquest was that my father died from liver cancer, which they considered to be a natural cause. My sisters and I were very distressed about this and put together a letter about our father. Our father did not die because he was an alcoholic, a drug user or because he slept with prostitutes, he died because he was infected with Hep C and HIV from infected blood products. However, the coroner told us that he was unable to rule what caused my father's liver cancer (Hep C), he was only able to rule what the cause of death was. I do not consider being infected by the NHS was a 'natural' death.
28. During this difficult time about my father's palliative care, I had to put my work-life on hold and all thoughts of going for promotions disappeared. My sisters, their partners and I looked after him towards the end of his life and it was a very difficult time for us all.
29. At the time, there was a lot of stigma associated with HIV and we heard stories about people throwing bricks through windows of those that had been infected. I recall seeing very scary adverts that featured tombstones and provided scary information about how the infection could be spread. This

information was incorrect and people believed that if you shared a glass with someone, or if they sneezed near you, then you would catch AIDS. At that time you were a marked person if you had HIV. I do not believe I suffered from any stigma because my family kept it very private and did not tell anyone.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

30. I think the QEH looked after my father well. I believe he had the care and support that was available, except when my father injured his whole buttocks and the Haemophilia staff were at a conference in China. Unfortunately only the Haemophilia team were able assist my father with his injury.

31. I have not been offered any counselling or psychological support, as a result of my father's infections. I do not know whether my mother or father were offered any counselling or psychological support.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

32. I believe my father received financial assistance from the Macfarlane Trust. I do not know how much he received, or how he found out about the trust. I am only aware that he received assistance from the Macfarlane Trust, as I approached them to request financial assistance for his care in his final weeks/months of his life.

33. I do not know if my father received any other financial assistance. I have not received any monies from any Trusts or Funds.

Section 8. Other Issues

34. I requested my father's medical records and I was told by the medical records department at QEH that there was a charge of £299.00. At the time I considered the charge to be extortionate. However, I paid for it in order to get

my father's medical records as I believed they would not have released them.
A copy of my letter to the hospital is exhibited at 'WITN1187005'.

35. I think it is tragic and sad that it has taken forty years to have a truly independent Inquiry. I think this is because the government's hand was forced after they agreed to hold an independent Inquiry after Grenfell.

Anonymity, disclosure and redaction

36. I confirm that I do not wish to apply for anonymity and that I understand this statement will be published and disclosed as part of the Inquiry.

37. I am happy to give oral evidence to the Inquiry if they deem it helpful.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

GRO-C

Dated

31/1/2019

Medical Summary

(This summary is not intended to exhaustive but sets out key points in the records relevant to the statement)

Virology Results

| | |
|------------|---|
| 14.04.1981 | Negative for Hep B |
| 25.05.1983 | Negative for Hep B antigen Negative for Hep B antibody |
| 01.07.1983 | Negative for Hep B antigen Negative for Hep B antibody |
| 16.01.1984 | Negative for Hep B antigen Negative for Hep B antibody |
| 30.09.1985 | Low positive for antibody to HTLV3 by Elisa |

Significant Entries/Absent Entries

| | |
|------------|---|
| 24.01.1986 | Letter to Dr Swire from Ian M Franklin "at his last visit we tested him and found that he has in his blood antibodies to HTLV III Virus. He did not however have any evidence whatsoever of AIDS or any of the AIDS related syndromes and I am sure that although the presence of antibody implies exposure to the virus that his likelihood of proceeding to any such other condition must be remote". |
| 12.05.1986 | Letter to Dr Swire from Ian Franklin "I had quite a long chat with him and his wife regarding his positive status for antibodies to HTLV III virus. This has been causing him a lot of anxiety and I hope by discussing it he may begin to relax a little more. Certainly he has no evidence that he is suffering any ill effects from this exposure". |
| 05.07.1994 | Letter to Mr Dewdney from April – "further to your telephone call last week, please find enclosed the Haemophilia Society's booklet on Hepatitis, which includes Hep C". |
| 30.01.1995 | Letter to Mr Dewdney from Jonathan Wilde – with regards to your telephone query, there was no specific test for non-A, non-B Hepatitis. It is only since the discovery of Hep C and the |

antibody tests to detect the infection, we have been able to determine that most cases of previously labelled non-A, non-B Hepatitis are in fact Hep C infection".

29.06.1995

Letter to Dr Swire from Jonathan Wilde – "William remains reasonable well at present. He feels he has become increasingly deaf recently and also more lethargic. The latter symptom may possibly be due to his Hep C infection".