

Witness Name: Jennifer Golding

Statement No: WITN1238001

Exhibits: 0

Dated: 10th February 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF JENNIFER GOLDING

I, Jennifer Golding will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Jennifer Golding and I was born on [GRO-C] 1970. I live at [GRO-C] Birmingham [GRO-C]. I have four children and one foster child. My three boys [GRO-C].
2. I have two sisters, Caroline Carthy and Jacqueline Golding, who were born on [GRO-C] 1965 and [GRO-C] 1969, respectively. We are the daughters of Graham and Patricia Golding who lived at [GRO-C] [GRO-C] Birmingham [GRO-C].
3. This impact statement is made in relation to my father who was born on the [GRO-C] [GRO-C] 1941 and he died on 2nd July 2015, at the age of 73.
4. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my father's full medical records.

Section 2. How Affected

5. My father was diagnosed at birth with severe Haemophilia A. When Factor VIII was introduced, he was treated with it on demand as he only needed it for a bleed. He received treatment at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham and was under the care of Dr Franklin in the 1970s, and Dr Wilde from the 1990s onwards.
6. In the summer of 1977, my father was diagnosed with Hepatitis B as the result of being treated with contaminated blood products. Fortunately, this was cured.
7. In or around 1998, my father attended his six-monthly routine clinic appointment for his haemophilia and was told he had been diagnosed with Hepatitis C (HCV) as the result of being treated with contaminated blood products.
8. My father died from cardiac and renal failure which I believe was attributable to his chronic HCV.

Section 3. Other Infections

9. I am not aware of any other infections that my father contracted as a result of receiving contaminated blood products.

Section 4. Consent

10. I believe that my father was tested without his knowledge and consent. His blood was routinely tested every 6 months, as far as we were concerned, these were routine blood tests that monitored his blood levels for inhibitors, haemoglobin etc. Prior to being informed of his infection, my father had no idea he was even being tested for HCV or HIV.

Section 5. Impact

11. At the time my father was diagnosed in 1998, I was 28 years old and I was living with my parents with my son Jordon, who was three and my daughter Kaylee who had only just been born. I was scared and worried for the children and am now ashamed to say that I was concerned about them becoming infected. I was being careful where I touched and was cleaning things thoroughly, like any kitchenware that my father had used or even the toilet seat. I was even scared of their grandfather kissing them, as we had no knowledge about HCV. It was awful, really upsetting, as I believe my father had the same concerns and he tried to distance himself from his loved ones in order to try to protect us.

12. They were dark days as there was little information about the infection available, it was not known how it could be passed on. There was information about Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) but not HCV and it was assumed the two infections were similar. There was uncertainty for all of us. My father was given no information or support, and neither was my mother or his family.

13.

GRO-C

GRO-C Haemophilia was being treated as a disease not a disorder.

14. Before being diagnosed my father was outgoing he was very social, however, following his diagnosis over time he became withdrawn and I did not see him as much. His mind would wander so he had little concentration. It was like a death sentence.

15. Another devastating aspect was that after 40 years of marriage my parents divorced as a direct result of my father's condition and the way it affected him. It was difficult for all of my family.

Anonymity, disclosure and redaction

16. I confirm that I do not wish have anonymity and that I understand the statement will be published and disclosed as part of the Inquiry.

17. I am willing to be called to give oral evidence if I can assist the Inquiry.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed..... GRO-C
Jennifer Golding

Dated..... 20/2/19