

Witness Name: Anna Lee
Statement No: WITN1343001
Exhibits: 0
Dated: April 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF ANNA LEE

I, Anna Lee, will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Anna Lee. I was born on 1972 and I live at
2. I make this statement on behalf of my late father, Derek Hope Lee. He was born on 1933 and died on the 13 April 1988 aged 55 from AIDS and Hepatitis C (Hep C).
3. I am single and live on my own and I am employed as a location manager.
4. My sister, Tessa Lee has also produced a witness statement ('WITN1344001')
for the Inquiry.
5. My father adopted me and my younger sister when we were babies and we both came from different families. Both my parents remarried when I was about 12 years old. I did not live with my father from the age of 7 years old.

Section 2. How Affected

6. My father suffered from severe Haemophilia A. I believe he was diagnosed with Haemophilia when he was a child as his mother was a Haemophilia carrier.
7. He was receiving direct blood transfusions from his father as a child and then started to receive Cryoprecipitate, followed by Factor VIII (FVIII) to treat his bleeds.
8. When I was a young child, I noticed little glass bottles of FVIII in the fridge. I therefore believe he was self-administering FVIII at home.
9. My father was an Educational Psychologist working full-time. He had a lot of ongoing problems throughout his life but I do not know exactly when he stopped working.
10. My father was treated at Manchester Royal Infirmary (MRI) all his life. Once he was taken to a hospital in Halifax after being ill. I do not remember who his treating doctors were at the hospital. His GP was a Dr Seed.
11. I believe my father was one of the first to receive FVIII and he was also one of the first to die as a result of the infections.
12. I believe my father was diagnosed with HIV in the early to mid 1980s. I also believe that my father was infected with Hepatitis (Hep C) but I am not sure when he was told or if he was told. I believe my father may have also had Hepatitis B (Hep B) in the 1970s GRO-C
GRO-C
13. I do not know if information was provided to my father about the above infections and whether he was told about the risk of passing on the infections to other people.
14. I found out that my father had HIV about 4 weeks before he died. My mother was leading me to it but did not tell me herself. I was 16 years old and HIV was all over the news so I worked it out myself.

Section 3. Other Infections

15. I do not believe my father suffered from any other infections other than what is stated above.

Section 4. Consent

16. I believe that my father was treated for his Haemophilia with FVIII with his knowledge but he was not aware of what FVIII could do to him, and therefore I believe he was treated without his consent.

17. I believe my father was definitely treated without being given adequate or full information.

18. I hope my father was not tested for the purposes of research.

Section 5. Impact of the Infection

19. I believe my father suffered mental and physical effects as a result of the HIV. In the last 2/3 years he did not really have a quality of life. He was housebound. There was definitely a personality change. I only found out 4 weeks before his death that he had HIV so I didn't realise prior to this how ill he was.

20. I was not living with my father when he was dying and so I do not know exactly how he died but I know he had Pneumonia. My father did not know that I knew he had HIV and he didn't want me to know so unfortunately I was unable to speak to him about it.

21. I do not know whether my father was given any treatments for his infections.

22. My father's death impacted me both physically, mentally and emotionally and on my private, family and social life. I experienced a very traumatic event at a young age and the knock on effect of this immediately afterwards was one of shock, grief, trauma and a deep destruction of the world as I knew it. I also know I would not have behaved in the way I did following his death, had he not have died. I understandably became vulnerable, insecure and lost and have carried this around with me ever since. I have never felt the same. Since he

died I have felt like an outsider, different and have carried around a 'secret'. I had to hide his death and in particular the cause of death from most people I have met. This in turn has made it difficult for me to form close relationships as I felt like there was always something I was not saying. I lived in fear of people finding out why he died. I have always steered conversations away from talking about my father or avoided conversations and situations where I thought my father might come up in conversation.

23. The knock on affect on me and my whole family was huge. How does a family and 2 young girls deal with losing their father, in what was an untimely and unnecessary death? We muddled through and still do now. We are still dealing with it. My sister, from the outside, looks like she is the most destroyed by his death. She has serious mental health issues, no education and has been left traumatised. I am a quieter and more reserved person than my sister so it is not quite so apparent how it has affected me. I have a deep mistrust of people, struggle with insecurity, lack of self-esteem and self-belief and find it hard to let myself be happy.

24. My life would also not have taken the course it has was it not for his death. I know I would have thought more about my future and where I was heading, instead of not knowing where I was going. I have anxious, depressed and sad times which stem from losing my father. There is a hole where the security of having a father should have been.

25. I have become an extremely private person as I have hidden a huge part of my life for such a long time. I cannot imagine what it would have felt like or feel like ~~not to have to live with the worry of my father's death affecting people's~~ perception of me and him, due to the stigma of HIV. It would have been lovely to have had a father for longer and when I did have a father, to have had one who was not ill.

26. Back then, there was a huge stigma attached to HIV. I could not talk about my father dying to anybody. In the late 1980s, people did not know what HIV meant and they believed they could catch it through being touched by someone with

HIV. Once, a healthcare professional asked me if my father ever touched me, implying that he could have passed HIV to me.

27. My father suffered work-related effects as he had to give up work when he became poorly.

28. My education was affected as were my exam results. I managed to struggle by during school but my exam results were not as good as they could have been. My grades were not a true reflection of my ability as my teachers sent in extenuating circumstances for me. My father died 2 months before my GCSEs. Thankfully, I did go to college and university but I believe I would have got better grades and perhaps had a different choice in career.

29. I have also worked too hard in my professional life, a perfectionist seeking an escape and requiring reassurance from those around me. Working was my way of dealing with things and keeping my mind off things.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

30. I was never offered counselling or psychological support as a result of what happened. I believe it would have helped if I was offered it. The fact that I am still finding it hard to deal with my father's death 30 years later, shows how badly affected I was and that I should have been given help.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

31. I do not know what financial assistance my father received.

32. After he died, I got £3,500 from the Macfarlane Trust. My sister, Tessa received £5,000. My step-sister and my step-brother got £5,000 and £9,000 respectively. The payment was based on how long our father was our father for, so I got the least. My step-mother filled out the forms and I received the above amount when I was 18 years old.

Section 8. Other Issues

33. I feel that the system which distributed any payments to either spouses or children of a deceased husband / parent was flawed. As if there was any money paid out I haven't received any.

Anonymity, disclosure and redaction

34. 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.

35. I do not want to give oral evidence to the Inquiry.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

GRO-C

Dated 17/04/2019.