

Witness Name: HAYLEY STANLEY

Statement No: WITN1715001

Exhibits: 0

Dated: FEBRUARY 2019

## INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

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### FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF HAYLEY STANLEY

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I, Hayley Stanley, will say as follows:-

#### Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Hayley Stanley. I was born on [GRO-C] 1983 and I live at [GRO-C] [GRO-C] Devon [GRO-C].
2. My father, Ronald Hill (born on [GRO-C] 1956), was infected with the Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) from contaminated blood products. He died from liver failure on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2004 aged 48.
3. My mother, Jean and my sister, Stacey have given their own Statements to the Inquiry (Witness Numbers WITN1285001 and WITN2923001 respectively).
4. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my father's medical records.

## **Section 2. How Affected**

5. My father had mild haemophilia A, diagnosed in childhood.
6. My father was under the care of the Birmingham Haemophilia Centre, at Birmingham Children's Hospital initially and then at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. My father rarely needed Factor VIII (FVIII) treatment and never at home. From 1993 when we moved as a family to Devon, my father was under the care of the Torquay/Torbay Haemophilia Centre.
7. I do not believe that any information or advice was given to my father beforehand about the risk of being exposed to infection from blood products.
8. I understand that my father was tested HCV positive in 1990. He was not informed at that time and he knew nothing of the diagnosis until September 1995, when he was told by Dr Boothe at Torbay Hospital.
9. I was not given any information about the risk of infection. We should have been provided with information and advice about HCV and infection management and control as a family unit.

## **Section 3. Other Infections.**

10. I do not believe my father to have been infected with anything other than hepatitis. I believe that one of the doctors at the QEH (Dr Mutimer I think) had speculated that my father probably had all the other forms of hepatitis (A, B, D E and G) as well as HCV.

#### **Section 4. Consent.**

11. I believe my father was tested for hepatitis without his knowledge and consent. He was told in 1995 that he had contracted HCV in 1990.

12. I was also unknowingly tested for HCV in 2006. I asked my GP relatively recently whether I had ever been tested for HCV. He looked on the computer and informed that I had. My son was born in 2006. I was not informed that I was being tested at that time. I did not consent to that test.

#### **Section 5. Impact**

13. It is almost impossible to articulate the pain my mother, sister and I feel and the emotional scars and bruises we carry around with us on a daily basis. We are close and outwardly positive, but inside we hide our sorrows and insecurities about the future.

14. Ryan, Stacey and I were largely protected by our parents from their distress when my father developed liver cirrhosis and was told that he was HCV positive. I knew my father was very unwell and I also knew that he was waiting for a liver transplant. The uncertainty of not knowing whether or when he would receive a liver was a very difficult time for us. I only fully realised just how difficult it was for my parents on the day that they were contacted by phone and told they had a liver and we should come to the QEH, Birmingham straight away. We lived in Devon.

15. The telephone call from the hospital came the day before Fathers' Day in June 1996. I was 13 years old and was out horse riding. My mother was out looking for me, stopping the neighbours to ask if they had seen me. One of the neighbours, Dave, saw me and told me my father was going to the hospital to have a liver transplant. I was coming back up the road in the direction of home

when Dave said 'your dad has a liver'. I thought it was a joke, but then I realised he was being serious. I literally galloped to the house and abandoned the horse in the garden and my father was stood there crying.

16. We journeyed to the QEH and were with my father before and after surgery. After the liver transplant my father embraced life. It was like he had been given a second chance. My father was a wonderful person, held in high regard by everyone that knew him but after the liver transplant he wanted to make a real difference to other people's lives and encouraged us to do the same. I remember my father spending a lot of time helping someone with second degree cancer.

17. My father became unwell again and went back on the transplant list in 2002/3003. The second liver transplant operation in November 2003 was awful. He was in intensive care for weeks. He had to go on a ventilator so often to help him breath, that it was decided to give him a tracheostomy to help him breath. The cut just would not stop bleeding. Blood was oozing out of the wound in my father's neck. None of us wanted to alarm or upset him by commenting on it, and, he was hallucinating. He was very distressed and would hold on to me for protection when my mother left the room.

18. None of us looked to our future life at that time. We just tried to get through each day.

19. Over the years, Stacey and I spent a lot of time in the care of our grandparents (and other family members on my father's side) because of my father's health and the time he (and my mother) spent at hospital. After the second transplant and for 10 months (the period of time my father spent in hospital), our parents were up in Birmingham and Stacey and I were in Devon. I was working and Stacey was at school. Our grandparents (on my mother's side/in Devon) were

older and [GRO-C] could not be as supportive as previously.

20. Stacey and I were left to our own devices. I was 20 years old and Stacey had just turned 15 years old. Being five years older than Stacey, I needed to take care of her. She was being bullied at school and neither of us had our parents support at that time of crisis. We were too worried about our parents and kept the problem from my mother. I knew that she would have been unable to cope with it. I do not think the school took the issue of the bullying seriously enough. Given my young age and having attended that same school myself, I thought they were less helpful than they would have been had they been dealing with our parents.

21. I was so shocked when I received a phone call at 2.00 am one night telling me my father was dying and to come to the hospital. I drove through the night preying my father would still be alive when I got there. My father had been sedated when I arrived. We all stood around his bed and we watched him die. We were all there to including my grandfather in Birmingham and his wife.

22. We were all devastated by my father's death. I do not know how we even got through the funeral. After my father's death, my mother was broken and walked around in a daze. It was like we had lost both parents and I tried to fill their absence in continuing to organise Stacey and take care of her day to day needs. She resented me for it. I was working and making a financial contribution to the household. For the first year of my father's death, I lived at home but moved out when I became pregnant for the first time. I still feel guilty about that because my mother was unable to meet the household outgoings without my contribution and our family home was sold. Having to leave the home we had shared with my father was a bitter blow for all of us.

23. My mother and sister [GRO-C] remember far more detail of what we went through back then. I have gaps in my memory. I

do not remember things about that time with the same clarity as them, like the last Christmas my father came home and the holiday in America. My mother's diary entries of that time are like the reading of a story to me, but I am there in all the entries. I believe my mind to have blocked out the trauma as a coping mechanism.

24. My father's legacy to me is to be a good person and do what is good for the soul. I go into hospital as a volunteer to do Princess Parties for children with terminal illnesses. My father taught us to give something back to others. Hospitals can be bland environments for children and they need to be taken away from their reality even if just for an hour or so. Sometimes a little bit of happiness is better than medication.

25. I have two children of my own and it breaks my heart that my father never got to meet his grandchildren. GRO-C  
GRO-C I do not trust the medical profession. In my eyes they treat you with normality no matter how sick you are and do not tell you the truth. I write everything down at every appointment with the children and rarely seek treatment for myself.

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

26. I had no counselling whatsoever and I was not offered any support.

### **Section 7. Financial Assistance**

27. My mother received some payments from the Skipton Fund but had to fight hard for them. Her monthly payments were only increased at the end of last year 2018. Before that, her monthly payments were derisory. She was so happy and grateful when she received the first additional payment. I feel angry because she should have received the right level of money due to her years ago.

28. The State took her life from her when they took my father. They took our future and our dreams. She has no income of her own and no pension. The least that she deserves is some financial security.

29. The families of this infected have been ignored, to include parents and children. As children, we feel overlooked and dismissed.

### **Section 8. Other Issues**

30. It is traumatic to continually relive the circumstances surrounding a loved one's death; and to learn things from other family members, through the media and through the Inquiry that you did not know previously. Most people lose a loved one and they grieve and move forward. It feels to me like my father has died over and over again in several different ways; the first time through the rejection of a liver, the second time through the perspective of having HCV, then with the extent of his suffering; and then you learn that the doctors used contaminated blood products recklessly knowing the risk and finally to hear that those infected were used as guinea pigs is nothing short of horrendous.

### **Anonymity, disclosure and redaction**

31. 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. I am willing 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: 21/2/19 .....