

Witness Name: JAMES CAWLEY

Statement No: WITN2763001

Exhibits: 0

Dated: NOVEMBER 2018

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF JAMES CAWLEY

I, JAMES CAWLEY will say as follows:-

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is James Cawley. I was born on [GRO-C] 1967. I currently reside at [GRO-C] Lancashire [GRO-C]. [GRO-C] I lived in Thailand for significant periods of time throughout my life. I met my wife Yuan there in 2002 and we married in 2003. She speaks very little English and is currently residing with some of her own family members (her sister and brother in law) in [GRO-C]. I am without funds to transfer to a care home closer to where she lives in [GRO-C] and my current marital status is therefore married but separated. Our separation has been forced upon us.
2. This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my full 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 infected

3. I have Haemophilia A, classed as severe. I was just a couple of months old when I was diagnosed.
4. I was treated at the Manchester Royal Infirmary Haemophilia Centre under the care of Dr. Wensley.
5. I am co-infected with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), the Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) and the Hepatitis B Virus (HBV). I was given contaminated Factor VIII (FVIII) for a number of bleeds into my joints.
6. In recent years I have developed AIDs Dementia Complex (ADC) sometimes known as HIV Associated Dementia (HAD). I have difficulty remembering things about the past.
7. I do however recall with clarity that I was told that I had HIV in 1982 or 1983. I was not yet 16 years old. I remember that Dr Wensley told me with a big smile on his face with obvious sadistic pleasure. He was grinning like a Cheshire cat as if happy to tell me. He made a flippant remark "tell who you will" and I was dismissed. His assistant GRO-D was equally unpleasant. I used to call her his 'chronie'. My mother was with me when I was told but I do not remember whether she was inside the room or waiting for me outside. My mum was my rock. She was very intelligent but spoke little English. She was Austrian. She died in or around 2009.
8. A nurse relatively recently told me that a lot of people had complained about Dr Wensley. He was supposed to help people, not be happy and gloat when giving them bad news. I did not receive any help or advice about what to do. I thought that was the end. I just tried to live my life as if each year would be my last. I was told to be careful and take precautions with girls.
9. In later years I find out from the nurses that it came from cheap infected blood that they bought from the blood of inmates in a prison in Arkansas.

Section 5. Impact of the Infection

16. I was diagnosed with ADC/HAD in or around 2009 just before my mother died. I know this because she told my brother Michael about the diagnosis before she died.
17. My condition has deteriorated to the extent that when I was admitted to Blackburn Hospital 3 or 4 years ago, I did not know what I was doing or saying. I had returned from Thailand with Yuan the previous month. I had crashed my car. I had later gone missing, leaving Yuan in a state of distress. She phoned Michael for help because she did not know where I was. Someone took me to Burnley Hospital where I was transferred to Blackburn Hospital. Michael works at Blackburn Hospital and has told me that I was rushed in and that everything had come at me at once. I made no sense to him. I thought my mother was still alive.
18. I am bedridden, I am unable to walk and have needed 24/7 care since the day I arrived at Blackburn Infirmary 3 or 4 years ago. I miss Yuan and want to move closer to where she lives but I cannot find a place willing to take me with my needs.
19. The impact my infection has had on my wife and my relationship with my wife is immeasurable. I need her. I cannot cope without her. I am imprisoned in my body in a care home without the loving support of my wife. I have never been able to work and as a result I am without the financial means to move closer to her on a privately paying care basis.
20. It was a terrible blow for my mother when alive, in effect, it was a double wammy for her that I had haemophilia then HIV and HCV.

Section 6. Treatment/care/support

21. I do not remember being offered counselling.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

22. I have an income of approximately £450 per month originally provided by the MacFarlane Trust. That is not enough for having your life screwed up like this. When my mum died she left me a bit of money. Out of respect for her and my dad, I put the money into buying a house in Thailand. I have a beautiful house in Thailand but I cannot get there now. I did not have enough money to buy a house here.

Section 8. Other Issues

23. There are no other issues.

Anonymity, disclosure and redaction

24. 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 unable 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

24/11/18

MEDICAL SUMMARY

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

This witness statement has been prepared without the benefit of access to my full medical records.