

Witness Name: Edward Jennings

Statement No.: WITN2174001

Exhibits: None

Dated: 12th February 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF EDWARD JENNINGS

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 5th November 2018.

I, Edward Jennings, will say as follows: -

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is Edward Jennings. My date of birth is GRO-C 1942. My address is known to the Inquiry. I am giving this statement in relation to my son who is called Edward John Jennings. His date of birth was GRO-C 1960. My son passed away roughly 10 years ago with his cause of death being given as bronchitis.. In particular, the nature of his illness, how the illness affected him, the treatment received and the impact it had on him and our lives together.

2. I am giving this statement with my wife, Bridget Jennings who is also in attendance. We have been married for 57 years.

Section 2. How Affected

3. My son was not the type of person to tell us everything. We did not get a lot of information from him about his illness until he was dying. I believe from what my son told me that he was in prison when he was told that he had the disease. I will go on to discuss more information about this.

4. [GRO-C] In about 1971 or 1972, my wife recalls taking [GRO-C] to have dental work done at the Glasgow Royal infirmary. Because [GRO-C] needed to you take factor VIII. This was to allow blood to be able to congeal. [GRO-C]
[GRO-C]
[GRO-C] Edward had haemophilia, although I am not entirely sure of what type this was.

5. My wife recalls taking [GRO-C] to the Royal for factor VIII. I believe [GRO-C] got this a few times when [GRO-C] needed to have dental work and [GRO-C] I believe that they may have found out about Edward having haemophilia [GRO-C]
[GRO-C]

6. In his youth, Edward ended up going off the rails. He ended up going on drugs. I'm not entirely sure the names of all the drugs he was on but I believe he was on [GRO-C] and a variety of different pills. I think he tried them all. I knew there was something wrong.

7. He ended up going to prison in the Glenochil. He told us that while he was here he was visited by two doctors from Glasgow Royal infirmary, which would around the year 2000. He was told he had been infected and that he had HIV and possibly hepatitis C. There was mention of him having had some issue with his liver and kidney.
8. I believe that in terms of how the infection was communicated to him, we would not be made aware of much of this. Edward didn't always tell us everything. I am not aware of if he was recommended to have any treatment. I do recall that Edward may have told us that they did not recommend he have treatment while he was in prison due to the physical weakness the treatment would cause.
9. Prior to his diagnosis, Edward was always in pain and in agony and I believe this is partially why he was on drugs. I now believe that he is dead, that his drug use was, at least in some part, to self-medicate for his symptoms he felt of what was likely his infection that he was unaware of.
10. I believe that when Edward was 17 or 18 he started to show symptoms of a flulike nature. We had put it down to drugs, but as I said I believe now that that was to get rid of any pain.
11. Edward moved out and got married at 18 to someone called Maureen, with whom he had two children. They later got divorced. The children he had were another son called Edward and a daughter called Caroline. Edward also later went on to have another child called Elaine Jennings with a woman called Elaine McFarlane. GRO-C
GRO-C
12. As I said, I believe that Edward started suffering from flulike symptoms when he was about 17 or 18. He got into more drugs around that time and we thought it was just down to his drug use that he was suffering from these symptoms. The symptoms included

shivering, sweating, sorehead, sore stomach and when he came in to see us he would come in and just lie on the floor. I recall that his bleeding was very bad and again we blamed the drugs. We now realise it was, at least partially, due to his infection.

13. Edward said to us when the doctors went to see him they said they had been looking for him for a while.
14. Edward avoided going to doctors, even when he left prison, I do not know if he ever actually had any treatments. The doctors told him that the product was contaminated and they said that they could not find him, but this seems rather odd to me as we had never changed address and he was always registered to our address, I believe. At the point that they visited him they told him that he had HIV and hepatitis C.
15. When [GRO-C] in hospital a lot. By this I mean Edward [GRO-C] teeth that required work and it must've been around when Edward was five that he haemorrhaged and that is how we found out about his haemophilia. I believe he may have been sent to the dental hospital around that time.
16. Any time Edward required treatment he would have to have his factor VIII. He had a few injuries growing up and that would also require treatment. I can't think of an exact example, other than he was hit by car at one time I do not recall when this was. Any bumps or scrapes, he would just end up going to Glasgow Royal infirmary. There was one time when he fell on a wall and hit his head. My wife had to take him to the Vale of Leven Hospital at 11 PM, my wife recalls that they did not seem to even know what his haemophilia was which took him there at that point.

Section 3. Other Infections

17. To my knowledge, my son was infected with HIV.

Section 4. Consent

18. I am unaware if there are any issues in terms of consent in relation to my son being tested.

Section 5. Impact

19. Edward moved out of our house at 16 and got his own house and a job. He never gave us much information and he rarely told my wife or me anything. He was a bin man briefly but that was too much for him.
20. Going further into the symptoms that he suffered, I believe he suffered from physical weakness and low energy levels and this impacted his ability to complete his job.
21. I think when he was working he just couldn't cope and at the time we just put it up to drugs. He would go out and start a shift and be back an hour and a half later.
22. In terms of Edward's time in prison he was there for eight years GRO-C GRO-C. We were up visiting him every week. Edward died in 2002 after having left prison. I believe he would have went in to prison in 1994.
23. When the doctors saw him they gave him 18 months to live said he would last longer with medication.
24. In terms of how the doctors felt he could deal with the treatment in prison, he was told, as far as he has told us, that if you were to take it on a Monday you would feel got for 3-4 days, then you'd be hit with

bad flulike symptoms and then be in the bed until the next treatment. Because of this he chose not to have any treatment. They said it was bad enough taking the medication at home so he opted not take it.

25. I do not know if Edwards HIV developed into AIDS. I believe he thought he could nurse it with drugs. My son's drug use got worse in prison as far as I understand. Edward was still on drugs when he came out of prison and generally just got worse over time. He was fully dependent on drugs. Sometimes I believe he kept his distance from us and then come to us if he was really bad and would sit and cry over his situation. We never thought what else it could be in the early stages before he was diagnosed but this also happened before he was diagnosed with HIV.

26. I believe my son self-treated GRO-C

27. My son never said anything to us about anything he was told in relation to cross contamination.

28. I do not believe my son ever went to his doctor even when he got out of prison. I believe he was too far gone by then. He would look more normal when he was on drugs. It was hard to see him deteriorate as prior to when his health deteriorated he was the life and soul of the party.

29. In terms of his drug use, you could see him sit and have 30 pills at a time. He had sleeping pills that I believe he called 'jellies' GRO-C
GRO-C You would see him swallow them and then the effect it would have on him. He would not lie when he was caught taking drugs and would be quite honest when we did catch on.

30. It did always affect our relationship with him. We always thought he was just taking drugs. We would always have helped him if he needed us.

31. By the time that Edward came of prison his symptoms were a lot worse and his health was clearly deteriorating. At that point his drug use got worse.
32. In terms of Edwards appearance, he was quite vain and we did notice that he did was lose a lot of weight and at the time we had put that down to his drug use but I believe it got harder and harder for him to hide when he was losing weight. I now believe that this may have been in relation to his symptoms for HIV.
33. Edwards's health continued to decline when he left prison. He stayed with his son Edward nearby. It got to the stage that he could not even really manage stairs and as he was so weak, he was sleeping on a mattress on the living room on the ground floor. That's where he was found when he died. It was his son found him. He would have only been 21 or 22 when he found his dad. It was very sudden when Edward died. His son Edward phoned us and said that there was blood coming out of his dad's ear. He then phoned paramedics and I think he had his last few breaths. He was not dead when he was found but he was on the verge of death. Young Edward had been out at the shop and had come back and found his dad like this. Scares like this had happened before but never went to hospital. He was a poor soul and he knew he was on his way out. I'm glad that he told us about his health issues as that in some small way did prepare us for his death.
34. I am not aware if blood was taken each time he was treated with the factor VIII and I am unaware if he would have been tested at this point.
35. I do not believe that enough advice was given to my son. He did not tell us what advice was given but he did not do anything to manage his infection.

36. My son was very well liked person and around 500 people came to his funeral. He became so popular because he seemed normal when he was on drugs as this numbed his pain. I think he was quite good at hiding his pain.
37. I do not believe his children would ever have known that he had any drug or any issues with his health terms of his illness. He had terrible relationships with women but the children would never have known.
38. In terms of the impact it had on Edwards's children, I would say it was hardest on his two daughters who were not really prepared for it. They were really broken up by it. His son, the younger Edward, knew that it was what happened I think he was better prepared for it.
39. In terms of the stigma, I do not believe that Edward told anyone really. I believe that it put him on a right downer. I think he felt even if he stopped drugs he would feel worse. I think he was embarrassed by it, in the sense of not wanting anyone to think that he was weak.
40. His last two years were hell, with his health declining; he never went to the doctor because he lost all faith in medical staff.

Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support

41. I do not know if Edward was offered any counselling when he was told about his condition. He could have benefited had been offered this but I do not know if it was offered in the first place.

Section 7. Financial Assistance

42. As far as we were aware, my son never applied for any financial assistance but he may have done.

Section 8. Other Issues

43. I did not have any involvement with the Penrose Inquiry. As far as I am aware it was a pure cover-up. I just want it to be out in the open what happened to my son.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

GRO-C

Dated 12.02.19.