

ANONYMOUS

Witness Name:

Statement No: WITN2310001

Exhibits: None

Dated: 20th February 2019

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF

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

I, will say as follows: -

Section 1. Introduction

1. My name is My date of birth is 1965. My address is known to the enquiry.
2. In this statement, I intend to speak about my father who is now deceased. His name was and his date of birth was 1920. I intend to speak about the nature of his illness, how the illness affected him, the treatment he received and the impact it had on him and our family life.

Section 2. How infected

3. My father and I had a wonderful, loving relationship. I was his only son and we were very close. He was also very close to his GRO-B daughters,
GRO-B
4. My father was infected with hepatitis C as a result of being given factor VIII blood products to aid the blood clotting process.
5. My father had haemophilia. He discovered this when he was around 14 years old. He was getting bleeding on the knee joint and he was diagnosed with moderate haemophilia.
6. My father attended the haemophilia clinic at Glasgow Royal infirmary whenever he had a bleed. It was normally when he had a bleed on his left knee joint. His consultant was a man called Professor GRO-D. He also had a specialist nurse called Ishbel but I don't know her surname. My father had a very good relationship with Ishbel. She seemed to take much responsibility for the unit and her work was commendable. My abiding memory was that on innumerable occasions when Professor GRO-D's advice was sought, he was often 'out of the country', presumably at conferences. At no point did Professor GRO-D have a frank and honest discussion with my father and mother regarding the contaminated blood infection and life-long consequences.
7. In the summer of 1978, my family went on holiday GRO-B. My father would have been 57 years old at that time. I was 12 years of age. I remember my father took very ill as a consequence of having been infected with contaminated blood products at Glasgow Royal Infirmary. The infection had been in its incubation period and had come to light when we were in GRO-B. His skin went a yellow colour and the whites of

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his eyes were all yellow. I knew my father had haemophilia but I had never seen him like that before. He was very tired and he could hardly walk. I remember as a family we cut our holiday short and travelled back [GRO-B] I distinctly remember this because my father could not walk and had to be transported in a wheelchair. I recall my uncle meeting us at the station to take us home.

8. The family home was [GRO-B]. Upon returning from [GRO-B] my father was in a lot of pain and he could hardly move. My mother called for the doctor to come to our home. This doctor did attend and requested an ambulance to take my father to hospital. I was not present when the Dr examined my father but my sister [GRO-B] has told me that the doctor had told my father that he had hepatitis. The doctor who came and examined my father was called Dr [GRO-B] He was [GRO-B]
9. My father received factor VIII blood products at Glasgow Royal infirmary at the haemophilia clinic. I cannot be specific with dates but he attended there regularly whenever he had a bleed, this is how my father was infected. He was clearly given contaminated blood on one of these occasions and contracted hepatitis C.
10. I do not believe my father was ever told about the risk of being infected whilst he was receiving factor VIII blood products.
11. My father was taken to Belvidere Hospital, London Road, Glasgow. He was secluded in his own room. I was not allowed into the room to see him. I recall only being able to stand in the carpark and being able to look through a window to look at my father. The doctors or nurses who went into the room my father was in would be all gowned up with masks on. I was told he had jaundice, there was no mention of hepatitis C to me.
12. My sister told me that when Dr [GRO-B] came to our home to examine my father, he had told him that he had hepatitis. I assume this was confirmed

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at the hospital. My father was in hospital for six weeks. I do not know who told my father about his infection. I do not know what information he was given or whether he was informed about the risks of passing it to others.

Section 3. Other infections

13. I do not believe that my father received any other infections as a result of being given infected blood or blood products.

Section 4. Consent

14. I do not know if my father was ever treated or tested without his knowledge or consent. I do not know if he was ever tested or treated without being given full information or for the purposes of research.

Section 5. Impact

15. Being infected with hepatitis C had a massive effect on my father. He was a GRO-B and was a strong burly man. He lost a lot of weight and at his death in 1995, he was skin and bones, he looked like a ravaged old man. Mentally, I think my father coped well. My father was not the sort of man to want to worry his family. If he did become depressed, he would have tried to hide his feelings from us all.

16. In 1981 or 1982, my father developed diabetes, he had to inject insulin to keep this condition under control. My father also developed arthritis. I remember he would be sitting in the chair constantly stretching his fingers out, clearly in discomfort.

17. In 1985, my father was offered some treatment. The treatment was over the course of a year. It was by way of self-injection of interferon twice a week.



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18. I do not know if my father faced any difficulties or obstacles in accessing this treatment. I remember him saying the treatment was very expensive.

19. I do not know if they were any other treatments available at the time. If there were, my father did not mention them to me.

20. I do not know if his physical condition was down to his treatment or the hepatitis C in general. He was always itchy. I remember he regularly stood scratching his back on the edge of the door. Doctor GRO-B explained this was a result of the hepatitis. He was also constantly tired and had no energy whatsoever. He used to complain of being nauseous and wasn't eating much food.

21. I can give no insight as to any impact my father's infection had on any treatment, medical or dental for any other conditions.

22. My father was a very private, family orientated man. He was not a drinker and only very occasionally would he socialise with friends. He preferred to be with my mum and me and my GRO-B sisters. It did affect what we could do as a family as his ill health prevented him going on outings or holidays. I felt very robbed as a teenager as my father was unable to do the normal things that fathers and sons do together. All the family worried about my father's health all the time. I remember my mother making him porridge with milk to try and build him up. He had no appetite. As a teenager I was constantly worried and anxious about my father's health. I knew he would not reach a ripe old age and this upset me greatly.

23. I do not remember any stigma regarding my father's condition. I had been told he had jaundice, I didn't know what hepatitis C was. We never discussed my father's condition outwith the family.

24. My father had built up a very successful business. GRO-B

GRO-B

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[GRO-B]

[GRO-B]

[GRO-B]

[GRO-B] However, my father managed the administration of the business and his illness created obvious difficulties. [GRO-B]

[GRO-B] My father did continue to work till he was 65. He then sold the business due to his ill health.

Section 6. Treatment/Care/Support

25. I do not believe my father faced difficulties or obstacles in obtaining treatment or care in consequence of being infected with hepatitis C.

Section 7. Financial assistance

26. I know my mum received £20,000 in 2016 because of my father's infection. She received no other monthly or lump sum payments.

27. [GRO-B]

[GRO-B]

[GRO-B] I assume it was through him that my mum found out that she could receive financial assistance.

28. I can give no insight into the process of applying for financial assistance. I had nothing to do with the application or process. £20,000 seems very little money compared to the years of ill health my father endured as a result of his infection.

Section 8 other issues

29. I feel very cheated that as a teenager I was robbed of a normal father

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and son relationship. It also impacted on all of the family not least my father who had years of ill health as a result of having been infected, which no doubt impacted on his life expectancy, passing away at aged 74.

30. NOT RELEVANT want to remain anonymous in this enquiry.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed

GRO-B

Dated

20/2/19